HISTORY

of

MASTERS' CORNERS

FULTON COUNTY

OHIO

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FULTON

Gift of
Darrel Stoltz

HISTORY of MASTERS' CORNERS

FULTON COUNTY, OHIO

by

A.W. FISHER

From The

WEST UNITY REPORTER

of

1890 - 1891

Edited

by

E. Darrel Stoltz

Archbold, Ohio

1987

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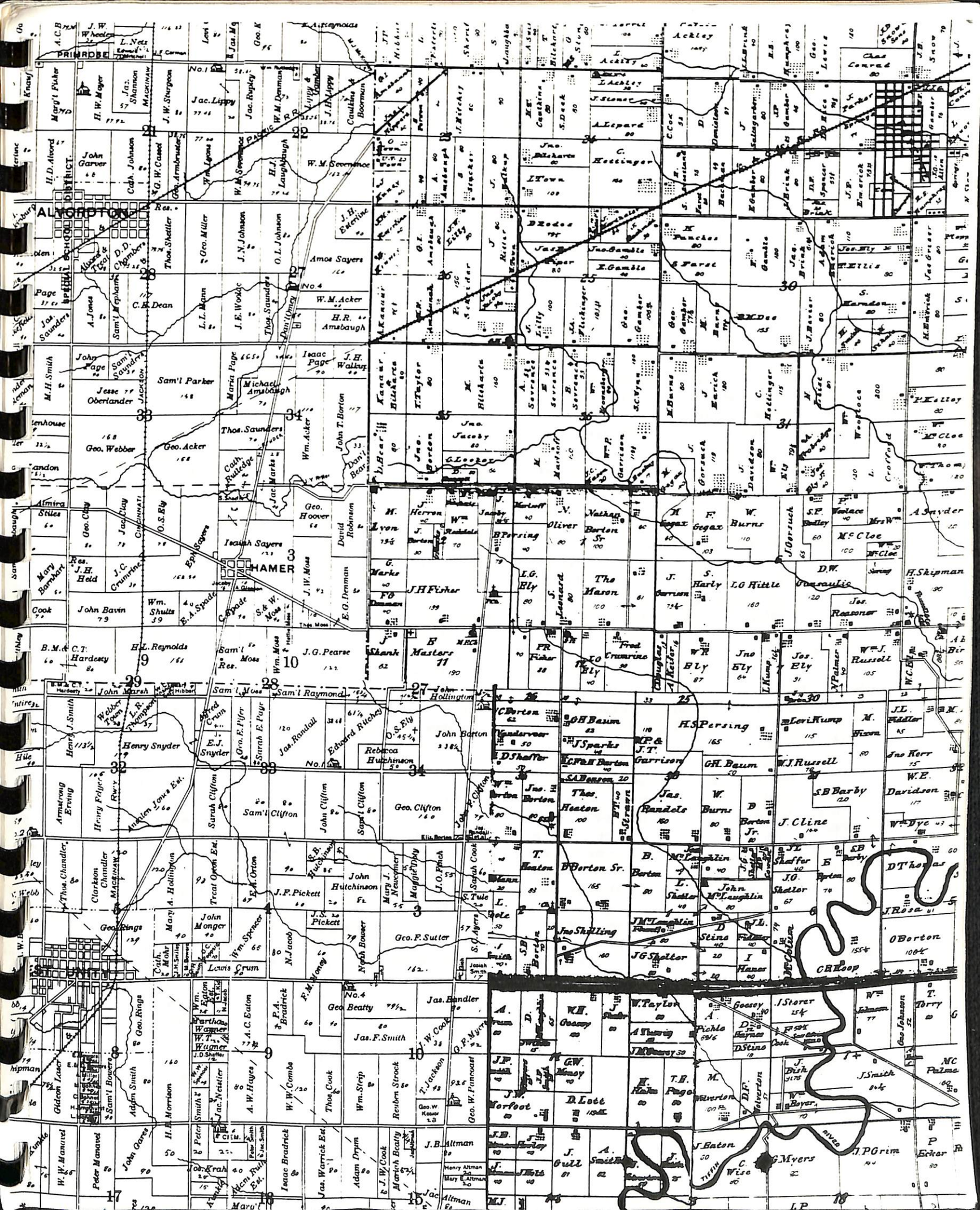
ALFRED W. FISHER
1855 — 1920

A.W. Fisher was the son of Philip R. and Mary M. Fisher, early settlers and farmers in that area that became Franklin Township of Fulton County in Ohio. The Fishers owned and lived on land located to the northeast of the intersection known as Masters' Corners. This corner is the 1987 intersection of county road L and township road 27-1.

A.W. Fisher taught in the rural schools of the area and was an authority on local history. In 1890 and 1891 the West Unity Reporter, West Unity, Ohio, featured a History of Masters' Corners written by Mr. Fisher.

This history will be of particular interest to those who have lived in or around the area of Masters' Corners and know of the Presbyterian Church, Baptist Church, Friends Meeting House, West Franklin M.E. Church and the Fisher school that at one time were located at or near the corners.


PRIMROSE
ALVORDTON
SCHOOL DISTRICT
No. 1
No. 4
HAMER
Res.
Amos Sayers
W. M. Acker
H. R. Amsbaugh
Michael Amsbaugh
Thos. Saunders
Geo. Webber
Geo. Acker
Wm. Acker
John T. Borton
Jesse Oberlander
Sam'l Parker
Isaac Page
J. H. Walluy
Geo. Hoover
David Robinson
Isaiah Sayers
Eph Sayers
Henry Snyder
E. J. Snyder
Rebecca Hutchinson
John Barton
Jas. Randall
Edward Ritchey
Sam'l Raymond
John Marsh
Sam'l Moss
John Hollington
H. L. Reynolds
J. G. Pearse
John Bavin
Wm. Shults
Cook
Mary Barnhart
J. H. Held
J. C. Crumrine
Almira Stiles
Geo. Clay
Jas. Clay
O. S. Ely
Cincinnati
Henry J. Smith
Thos. Chandler
Clarkson Chandler
Mackinaw
Armstrong Erving
Henry Folger's Heirs
Mathew Jones Est.
Sarah Clifton
Sam'l Clifton
John Clifton
Geo. Clifton
Geo. Rings
Mary A. Hollington
Treat Orton Est.
J. F. Pickett
John Hutchinson
Mary J. Newcomer
Maggie Doty
J. O. Pfaff
Sarah Cook
John Monger
Wm. Spencer
Geo. F. Sutter
North Bowser
Lewis Crum
Jas. Handler
Geo. Beatty
Jas. F. Smith
J. W. Cook
G. F. Myers
Gideon Lasch
Adam Smith
H. Morrison
Sam'l Bowers
A. W. Hayes
W. W. Combs
Thos. Cook
Wm. Strip
Reuben Strock
T. Jackson
Geo. W. Pennoyer
Peter Manavel
John Gares
Isaac Bradrick
Jas. Warrick Est.
Adam Drym
J. W. Cook
Martin Beatty
J. B. Altman
Henry Altman
Mary E. Altman
Jac. Altman
Jac. Krah
Peter Smith
Jac. Smith
Jac. Netzler
Wm. Eaton
Martha Wagner
W. T. Wagner
J. D. Shaffer
A. C. Eaton
P. A. Bradrick
F. M. Long
Jas. F. Smith
Geo. Beatty
Jas. Handler
Goosey
W. Taylor
J. Storer
A. Pickle
D. Stine
J. Smith
M. C. Palmer
T. Torry
Geo. Johnson
J. Rosa
O. Borton
C. R. Loop
D. T. Thomas
J. L. Shaffer
J. O. Shelter
John McLaughlin
S. B. Barby
Davidson
J. Cline
W. E. Dye
H. S. Persing
Levi Rump
W. J. Russell
Jno Kerr
G. H. Baum
J. Sparks
T. Heaton
B. Borton Sr.
Jas. Randels
W. Burns
D. Borton Jr.
J. L. Fiddler
Hixson
S. B. Darby
D. T. Thomas
J. Rosa
O. Borton
C. R. Loop
J. M. Laughlin
Jno Shilling
J. G. Shelter
D. Stine
I. Hanes
J. L.
Jno Skilling
S. B. Borton
J. M. Laughlin
Ramge
W. H. Geesey
J. Shuler
W. Taylor
A. Thorny
J. M. Geesey
A. Pickle
D. Hayes
D. Stine
J. Smith
M. C. Palmer
T. Torry
Geo. Johnson
J. P.
G. W. Geesey
J. W. Norfoot
D. Lott
H. Hain
T. B. Page
M. Everton
D. F. Everton
J. Dick
J. Smith
M. C. Palmer
W. Boyer
J. B.
J. Gull
A. Smith
J. Eaton
J. P. Grim
C. Wise
G. Myers
Tiffin River
L. P.
M. J.

HISTORY of MASTERS' CORNERS

CHAPTER I

HISTORY OF THE NORTHWESTERN CORNER OF FULTON COUNTY

That portion of Fulton County, Ohio, lying between the Michigan Meridian (Sol Wynn Road) on the east, and Williams County on the west, and the old Fulton Line on the south, and Michigan on the north, is of peculiar interest, as it has been in three nations, claimed by three colonies and by three States; in one province, five Territories, two States, seven counties and at least five townships, and ruled over by at least three famous Indian chiefs. It has belonged to France, England and the United States; claimed by the colonies of Connecticut, New York and Virginia and by each of these after they became States. It has been in the province of Quebec, State of Virginia; Territories of Indian, North West, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan; State of Ohio, counties of Kent, Wayne, Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, Williams and Fulton and the townships of St. Joe, Mill Creek, of Hillsdale County, Michigan, attached to Springfield and Brady, then in Brady and Mill Creek, all of Williams County, Ohio; then being divided, it became a portion of Gorham and Franklin Townships, Fulton County, Ohio and it has been under the sway of the great chiefs Pontiac and Tecumseh - one of the greatest men of American history - and the far famed chief Little Turtle.

It's history gleaned from the histories of Williams and Fulton Counties, from records at Lansing, Michigan and favors shown by D.A. Bixbee of Adrian, Michigan, is as follows: Long before the landing of the pilgrims, the French had established trading posts on the lakes; and in 1641, the Jesuits, Raymbault and Jacques, planted the French flag at Sault St. Marie, as expressive of the sovereignty of France; and at the same place in May 1671, Lamont De St. Lusson, surrounded by the assembled chiefs, hoisted the triple colors of France and took possession of The Great West, in the name of his Gracious Sovereign, King Louis XIV. It remained under the dominion of this nation until 1763, when England wrested it from her, but the unconquerable Pontiac refused to relinquish his rights to the land of his fathers and succeeded in holding possession of it for two years longer.

In the meantime it was claimed by the colonies of Connecticut, New York and Virginia, but was soon made a part of the province of Quebec and remained as such till September 3, 1873, when by the Treaty of Paris, it was transferred to the United States, although England virtually held it until the evacuation of Detroit in 1796. By treaty, in 1785, the United States relinquished her claim in favor of the Indians and it was then called the Indian Territory, but the states of New York, Connecticut and Virginia still claimed dominion of it. New York relinquished her claim March 7, 1780; Connecticut ceded her rights September 16, 1786 and Virginia deeded it to the United States September 15, 1783, thus holding it after she became a State.

July 13, 1787, the Northwest Territory was formed, embracing the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, and this same year or in 1788, Arthur St. Clair, then the next to the last president of the Continental Congress, was appointed as governor. He did not come to the territory until three years after it's organization, arriving at Marietta in the winter of 1790. He was governor of this territory until it was divided in 1800 and governor of the territory of Ohio until Ohio became a state in 1803. The latter part of this year he was removed by the president and the secretary of the territory, Charles W. Byrd, became acting governor for a few months until the organization of the state government.

In 1792, Kent County was organized by the English who held possession of Detroit and surrounding country up till 1796, when Wayne County was formed which included all of the lower peninsula of Michigan and all the

northern portion of what is now Ohio and Indiana with Detroit as it's county seat.

The first Territorial Legislature convened September 18, 1797, at Cincinnatti and in 1800 the Northwest Territory was divided by a line running from the mouth of the Kentucky River to Ft. Recovery, thence due north till it intersected the International boundary between the United States and Canada, and the eastern portion became the Territory of Ohio, at which time that portion north of the Fulton Line was attached to the territory of Indiana and remained as such until Michigan Territory was formed in 1805, when it became a part of that Territory; thus being in four different territories in less than five years.

In January, 1803, Dr. Edward Tiffin was elected the first governor of the State of Ohio without any opposition, receiving only 4565 votes, and two years later he was unanimously re-elected receiving only 4983 votes. Thus at the first gubernatorial election ever held in Ohio the vote was less than that cast in Fulton County last fall.

Tecumseh formed his Confederacy in 1808, and virtually held this country till defeated at Tippecanoe November 7th, 1811 with Little Turtle who lies buried at Ft. Wayne, as one of his chiefs. England again had control of this from Hull's surrender of Detroit, August 26, 1812, till defeated by Gen. Harrison at the battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813, where Tecumseh was abandoned to his fate. In 1817 Monroe County was formed and in 1822 Lenawee County was designated, and it, and all west of it, which was known as St. Joe Township, was attached to, and considered a part of Monroe County, until Lenawee County was organized in 1826, when all the territory west to Lake Michigan was attached to this county.

Michigan Territory was organized on June 7, 1824, and in 1828 the Michigan Survey was completed; in 1829 Hillsdale County was named and was organized in 1835, when this strip became a part of Mill Creek Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan. It was a portion of the strip over which Michigan and Ohio had been disputing since 1805, and when Michigan drafted her constitution and wished to become a state, the dispute was so intensified that it culminated, in 1835, in the Toledo War.

Michigan claimed that the Fulton Line - a line running due east from the most southern point of Lake Michigan - should be the state line, and Ohio claimed that her territory extended to the Harris Line. Ohio laid claim to this "disputed territory" February 23, 1835, and March 30, 1835, the commissioners extended Williams County to the Harris Line and this was attached to Springfield Township, and March 7, 1836 it was attached to Brady Township. The dispute was settled by an act of Congress, June 15, 1836, declaring the "Harris Line" - the present boundary between the two states - as the state line; thus transferring this territory to Ohio six months before Michigan became a state. It was then a portion of Brady Township.

On March 4, 1839 it was included in Mill Creek Township of Williams County, and at the organization of Fulton County, April 1, 1850, it became a part of Franklin and Gorham Townships Fulton County, Ohio, and is known as such at present. It's county seats have been Detroit, Monroe, Tecumseh, Hillsdale, Defiance, Bryan, Delta, Ottokee, Wauseon and perhaps one or two other towns. Thus France has held this territory one hundred and twenty-two years, England twenty years and the United States one hundred and seven; and of these two hundred and forty-nine years, incredible as it may seem, at least eighty years have been spent in ceaseless war for the supremacy over it; and I venture the assertion that no tract in the United States has been subject of greater political and municipal changes than the one under consideration, although but two miles wide and some six long.

Besides all this, this tract forms the southeast corner of that vast territory which was ceded by the Indians to the United States at the Treaty of Chicago August 29, 1821.

CHAPTER II

LOCATION AND GEOLOGY OF MASTER'S CORNERS

Master's Corners, proper, is a country cross roads located in the western part of Franklin Township, Fulton County, Ohio, and is formed by the intersecting of the Angola Road and the "angling" road running north from Defiance, through Evansport, Stryker and thence on north by east to the Gorham Township line. There are evidences on the old Lily place that this road was at one time extended farther, no doubt to Adrian. The corners received it's name from Ezekiel Masters, who settled near by in the

spring of 1845, and soon after formed what is known as the Master's Society of the M.E. Church, whose church edifice was erected on the corners in 1849.

In this history I include as "Masters Corners" the territory occupied by all those who attend the churches on the corners, but to make it definite, I have confined myself to within an assumed circle, four miles in diameter thus including all points within two miles of the corners proper. This territory includes a portion of Franklin, Mill Creek, Gorham and Brady Townships, and to give a proper history of the corners I find it necessary to go far beyond its limits and give a sketch of the different townships, portions of which have been included in this circle, or have helped to form the townships, the portion of which have been or are now within its limits.

SURFACE GEOLOGY

Geologically this territory is divided nearly in the center by a sand ridge running from northeast to southwest from Martzolf's through by the M.E. Cemetery to the Joseph Powell place. This is known in geology as the first beach, and was at one time the shore of Old Lake Erie.

West of this beach the surface is mostly of Erie clay, generally level, with an inclination to the southeast. East of the ridge the soil is a rich sandy, gravelly loam, with a subsoil of Lacustrine clay, with a decided dip to the southeast, at some places nearly 60 feet to the mile. The highest point is near the M.E. Cemetery, which is some 230 or 240 feet above Lake Erie and from there it inclines to Bean Creek, which is about one hundred feet lower.

The glacial drift at Stryker is 127 feet deep, but it is supposed to be considerably deeper here. The soil and clay is interspersed with an almost innumerable variety of pebbles, stone and portions of detached rocks, many of which are Tasciliferous. I have picked up a number of detached specimens of Osthoceras and Zaphantis, also of Stenopra Fidrosa of the Cincinnati group of limestone, and Spirifer Roricasta, Spirifer Gregari and Concordium Trigonale, of the Connifierous group of limestone, besides a great many specimens that were imbedded in the rock of which they formed a part.

Just west of the Presbyterian Graveyard there is a large rock some six feet wide by eight feet long, the depth of which has not been ascertained, which shows unmistakable markings of the glacial period, the groves running from northeast, or perhaps nearer south by thirty degrees east.

MINERAL

Bog iron ore has been found at different places and there is quite a bed, the extent of which has never been investigated, on the southeast corner of section 2, on land owned by L.G. Ely, and specimens of stone coal have been found along Mill Creek. There are a number of springs situated along the creek and runs, but not nearly so many as in an early day. There are also a few artesian wells, the waters of which and also of many of the springs are impregnated with sulphur and a substance that resembles oil has been seen at some of the springs.

DRAINAGE

This Territory is drained by Bate's Run, named after Joe Bates, and Mill Creek, so called I presume on account of the number of mill sites along its course. At one time it turned five mills, and where it breaks through the beach it is a remarkably rapid stream, and were it utilized as are the streams of the New England states it would afford a vast water power.

TIMBER

West of this beach the timber was mostly beech, ash, maple, oak, elm, cottonwood and a great number of other varieties. On the eastern slope the timber was remarkably tall and thrifty, sometimes reaching 60 or 70 feet without a limb. Among these were white walnut or butternut, and black walnut that sometimes reached 5 or 6 feet in diameter, with now and then a birdseye walnut, and white and yellow poplar, 6 feet through. There was a poplar cut on the Ezekiel Master's place that measured between 7 and 8 feet on the stump. It was over sixty feet to the first limb, and over 5 feet in diameter 20 feet from the stump. The tree was sold to Joshua Conaway for four dollars. The butt was somewhat hollow and he did not use it. From the remaining part of the tree over six thousand feet of lumber was cut. There was also black and white ash in great abundance with

occasionally a blue ash and a number of yellow or calico ash - the bark of which resembles that of the poplar - which often reached 4 or 5 feet in diameter. Red oak, white oak, burr oak and sweet oak - the three former often reaching over 5 feet through, with now and then an upland burr oak 6 feet in diameter and a few specimens of what some call black oak. Wild cherry 3 feet through, hard or sugar maple and soft or swamp maple in great abundance, with now and then a birdseye, and large quantities of butternut and at least two kinds of shellbark hickory. Red and white beech, linden or basswood and cottonwood each reaching 3 and sometimes 5 feet through. White or water elm, yellow elm and cork-bark slippery elm, that sometimes measured 4 feet across the stump, a few rock or hickory elm, and croky or upland white elm.

There was an old shell of a sycamore on the old Kibbler farm that was fully 7 or 8 feet in diameter and one of these trees still stands that measures 19 feet and 4 inches in circumference. There were a number of buckeye and sassafras, one of the latter still stands on Newton Leonard's place that measures 6 1/2 feet in circumference. There were a few specimens of wild honey locust, white locust, yellow locust, hackberries and mulberries; yellow, white and black willow, Quaker asp and aspens are also found. There is an aspen on P.R. Fisher's farm that is not over thirty-six years old that measures 11 feet and 4 inches in circumference 2 1/2 feet above the ground. There was one solitary gum, on the Mason farm, and I am told that there were a few cucumber and bean trees along the creek.

Of the smaller growth of timbers were the ironwood, dogwood, swamp dogwood, water beech, water ash, wild plums of three varieties - a large purple, a small red and a yellow plum, pawpaw, crab apple, sarvis or June berry, blackhaw, red haw, thorn apple, sweet thorn apple, one of which was seven or eight inches through and fifty or sixty feet high, red thorn, black thorn and cock spur thorn, leatherwood or rattle box, pepperidge, wahoo, hop tree, redbud or wild lilac and a tree I could not identify unless it is the Indian arrow.

Of the undergrowth there were prickly ash, sumach, poison sumach, elder, poison elder, boxelder, white elder, witch hazel, spice wood, several kinds of willow, bladder nut, spotted and ball alder; two kinds of grape vines and a large number of other climbers, among which was wild ivy, poison ivy, sweet ivy and bittersweet, and west of the ridge we find a shrub called the green osier. No doubt there are a great many other that have not been recognized, so this list may be considered far from being complete.

The swales and swamps have been mostly cleaned out and the old settlers paid little or no attention to what the brush were called so they could get them out of their way, and there are still a number of specimens standing of which I could not learn the names. Thus we find that there has grown in this part of Franklin at least ninety different kinds of timbers and woods, and fully sixty-five of these are known to have grown on the farm now owned by P.R. Fisher, and no doubt there were a number of the smaller variety and undergrowth that has not been recognized, or the names of which were not known. Besides the above, among the brambles are the eglantine, sweet brier, and at least one other kind of wild rose, blackberry, the black raspberry, wild gooseberry, and wild currant, and a few plants of dewberries, and a number of other small shrubs and vines that would be recognized only by a botanist.

LARGE GRAPE VINES

Perhaps one of the largest grape vines in the country is still growing on section 1, town 10, south, range 1 east on the back part of the farm now owned by Mr. Garrison, and occupied by Philo Steward. This mammoth vine was evidently supported in the long past by a large tree that has been uprooted and has completely decayed away. The vine lies on the ground a distance of twenty-five feet or more when it curves upward and swings to the branches of a large beech tree, some seventy feet above the ground. Allowing for the curve, this would make all of one-hundred and twenty feet from the root to where it first touches the tree; it then branches out and covers the top of two or three large trees, each of which are from two to three feet in diameter. The vine measures twenty-five and one quarter inches in circumference, twenty-five feet from the root which is the largest point, and twenty-one and one-half inches at thirty feet, and as the portion lying on the ground is somewhat decayed it no doubt at one time has been fully ten inches in diameter. Who knows but what this is the oldest living thing

in Fulton County, or even in the state. Compared with this the mammoth grape vine that was shipped from California and placed on exhibit at the Centennial was decidedly small. I have not the exact dimensions of that vine to refer to but as I remember seeing it, although a little larger in diameter than this it was but a few feet to the branches, while this is all of one-hundred and twenty feet. That covered a trellis some twenty feet square; this the top of two or three large forest trees. That having its branches cut back was not over fifty feet from root to extreme tip, while this perhaps is two-hundred feet. Taking this vine as a whole, I should not be surprised if it was found to be the largest and heaviest grape vine in the state. We can form an idea of its vastness from the fact that the large beech tree that is its chief support is curved a considerably from the perpendicular by its vast weight. Not far from this on the Gegax farm was another vine that has recently been cut down, that measured fifteen and one-half inches in circumference some nine feet from the ground.

This sketch will give some idea of the heavy and luxuriant growth of timber that the old pioneers had to destroy in order to make for themselves and us the splendid farms that now cover this territory.

Since the above was written I learn that there is a grape vine growing on the farm of O.G. Greely, in Franklin Township that is thirty-five inches in circumference fifteen feet from the ground.

CHAPTER III

THE CHILDREN OF GITCHEMANITO

The Tribes of the Forests Whose Land We Occupy

From their forest home they were driven forth,
At their father's graves they were hunted down.

For they dared to war for their sylvan hearth,
That the God who made them made their homes.

They were scattered afar to be forgot,
Or cut down like the forests, that their wants supplied.

And e'en mem'ry scarcely can mark the spot
Where the tribes of Manito lived and died.

As early as 1680 Count De Frontenac, a Frenchman, built a fort on the Maumee, which afterward was rebuilt and became known as Fort Miama. This was the first white settlement within what is now Ohio, and was used as a water course from the Ohio to the lakes, and that portion of land lying between "the beautiful river" and "the great water" from that time up to the year 1815, was the scene of an almost endless strife.

First, the French and the Indians on the one side and the colonists on the other, fought for the supremacy of this country, until 1763 when England became the master and took possession of it, and then for two years longer Pontiac, using all the force and cunning of his people, tried to annihilate the English north of the Ohio.

"He was then about fifty years old, tall and dignified and was the civil and military ruler of the Ottawas, Ojibwas and the Pottawattomies." The Indians, from the straits of Macinac to the borders of North Carolina, were united in a general conspiracy to fall suddenly upon the British frontier posts and with one blow, strike every man dead. For this purpose the Chippewas, Ottawas, Wyandotts, Miamis, Shawanees, Delawares and Mingoes combined under Pontiac. "The blow came, as near as can now be ascertained, May 7, 1763," and nine out of the twelve British posts fell, and "the Indians drank the blood of many a Briton, * * * and had it not been for the treachery of a few of his followers, his masterly plan would undoubtedly have been carried out." After the treaty which it seems Pontiac did not sign, he moved with his tribe, the Ottawas, from Detroit to the Maumee River. Pontiac went farther south, living many years among the Illinois. "He had given up all hope of saving his country and race," but after a time he endeavored to unite the southwestern Indians against the whites, "which only ended in a quarrel between himself and some Kaskaskia Indians, one of whom soon afterwards killed him;" and to avenge his death, the Illinois tribe was nearly exterminated by the northern Indians.

Then for a time there was a lull in the hostilities and we had no decisive actions except one or two expeditions under Washington until the breaking out of the Revolution, when the Indians, set on by the British, who gave them a premium for all scalps taken, again endeavored to drive the whites across the Ohio.

But they were unsuccessful and after a stormy debate, at the Treaty of Paris, September 3rd, 1783, this strip was ceded to the United States, but the English did not evacuate until thirteen years later, and still urged on the Indians to hold the land north of the Ohio, and for this purpose, they fought as only those who have homes to protect can; and it is estimated that from 1783, till 1790 between 1,200 and 1,500 men, women and children fell under the tomahawk and scalping knife of the red man.

Accordingly, Gen. Harmer was sent out by Washington in 1790, to conduct an expedition against the Indians; but he was met by them near the present city of Ft. Wayne in two battles, Oct. 17, and 22, 1790, and was signally defeated. In 1791 Gen. St. Clair headed another expedition which proceeded cautiously up the Miami to where Greenville now stands. Here, November 4th, 1791 he was met by the most astute and noted of the Indian chiefs, Mish-she-kence, Little Turtle and his entire force was completely overthrown. In 1792 Gen. Anthony Wayne was appointed commander. He came to Greenville in October, 1793, and soon after built Fort Recovery. During the winter he organized his army and Capt. William Wells, the adopted son of Little Turtle, was chosen chief of scouts. The next summer he moved north and arrived at Grand Glaise, Aug. 8, 1794, where he built a fort and called it Defiance. Here the Indians had an extensive village, extending about three miles on either side of the Maumee River, which was called by the Indians "The Mother of Waters."

"The notorious renegade, Simon Girty, had often visited these Indians in order to incite them against the whites, and did more perhaps to provoke the hostilities between the races, and combine the Indians against Gen. Wayne than any other man. He was at Harmer's defeat in 1790, at St. Clair's defeat in 1791, and witnessed the battle of The Fallen Timbers in 1794."

In appearance "He had a low forehead, his eyebrows contracted, meeting above his short flat nose, his gray sunken eyes averting the ingenuous gaze, his lips thin and compressed, and his countenance the picture of a villain." He dressed in Indian costume, with only a handkerchief on his head.

These tribes were under the sway of Muc-cut-ta-sup Waw-bo-e-on, or Blue Jacket, who was the son of Johannes, a white man, who was captured when a boy by the Indians and married into the tribe and always remained with them. Johannes moved with a colony of Wyandots from Upper Sandusky to the banks of the Huron River near Flat Rock, Michigan, soon after the close of the war of 1812, where he died at the home of his great grand-child and Blue Jacket's grand-child, Ta-wau-tee, in 1835, claiming the remarkable age of 114 years, his funeral being preached by Rev. E.C. Gavitt, now of Toledo. So says the Rev. E.C. Gavitt, but Dr. John Near, of Flat Rock, Michigan, says that Johannes and Blue Jacket were no relation. All that I could learn about the Johannes was that he was born in Pennsylvania, of Dutch parentage, and that all he could remember of his early life was seeing his mother spin flax on a little wheel and they called him "Honnas."

Blue Jacket was a Brigadier General of the English army, having been commissioned by George III, and amongst the Indians was second only to Little Turtle. "He was as noble in bearing as a Roman, six feet tall and finely proportioned, very muscular, his eyes bright, large and piercing, his forehead high and broad, his nose aquiline, his mouth wide and his countenance open and intelligent.

On the 16th of August Wayne moved down the river and on the 20th prepared for the decisive battle of the Fallen Timbers. The Indians, between 2,000 and 3,000 strong, under the leadership of Blue Jacket, prepared for the battle under the cover of a mass of fallen timber; but Wayne came on with such indomitable force that the Indians bestowed the name of Chenotin (Whirlwind) upon him. Naw-ash, O-to-saw, Kin-jo-i-no and Turkey Foot, whose Indian name is Mis-sis-so-in-zet, or Mis-so-o-cot, were the principal chiefs who fought here. Turkey Foot took an active part in the battle; but the Whirlwind was upon him, and he was unable to stand before its mighty force; and in a vain endeavor to stay his flying warriors, he fell beside a large rock, which has ever since been known as Turkey Foot Rock. The Indians fled down the stream to Ft. Miami which was occupied by the British. Wayne pressed the savages to the gates of the fort.

This was the oldest fort in this part of the country, having been built by Count De Frontinac in 1680. After the battle Wayne went on and erected Fort Industry and afterwards Fort Wayne. When Wayne had finished the campaign he returned

to Greenville and consummated a treaty with Little Turtle in 1795. "That treaty is well worth your study. In it you can see statesmanship, skill, pluck and courage. Little Turtle was not to be fooled and deserves to be ranked next to Wayne in the history of that campaign. By the treaty, however, Wayne obtained concession of all this western territory."

"Antoine Lassalle, a French Canadian by birth, who was captured at the battle of the Fallen Timbers, stated, that he had lived twenty-one years at Detroit and on the Maumee; that he lived at the Miami village (Ft. Wayne) many years where he kept a store and supplied the other traders with goods; that since Harmer's campaign (1790) he had lived on Bean Creek, at Little Turtle's town." I could not locate this town and Hon. D.W.H. Howard says "Little Turtle's camps on Mill Creek and Bean Creek, were only temporary." Little Turtle was called Mish-she-kence by the Indians and by the French Le Gris. His last home was located north of the St. Mary's River near Ft. Wayne on land now owned by A.B. Barnell, where on the 14th of July, 1812, he laid down the hatchet and took up the Eternal Pipe of Peace, and was buried near by on the banks of Spy Run where this farseeing chieftain now "Sleeps the sleep that knows not breaking." No more will he lead his brave warriors on to deeds of valor, or make for them sagacious treaties, when they were vanquished; for his spirit has long departed

"To the Island of the blessed,
To the kingdom of Ponemah,
To the land of the Hereafter."

I am told that he was buried under a huge apple tree, under whose boughs, he said, he had first beheld the light of day, and which he had watched for over eighty returning autumns, and said he "If any white man dares to cut that tree down I'll come back from the 'Happy Hunting Grounds' and kill him."

He has now living in Maumee City, a grand daughter, a widow Gilbert, who is a very estimable woman. Other Miami chiefs were La Fountain, Richardville, (usually pronounced Ruch-i-ville) and Godfrey and others who became the rulers of this tribe after the death of Little Turtle.

In 1796 the English evacuated Fort Macinac, Detroit, Fort Miami and all the lands north of the Black Swamp, which gave a temporary lull to the hostilities, as the Indians now had no one to urge them on and but little occurred till in November, 1807, when William Hull, who was governor of Michigan Territory, by Treaty of Detroit, secured to the United States the title to all the lands north of the Maumee River and east of a line extending north from the mouth of the Auglaize River; excepting three small reservations situated on the Maumee.

This north and south line afterwards became the Michigan Meridian.

This treaty roused the animosity of Tecumseh, who, in 1808, formed his conspiracy to drive the whites south of the Ohio. This famous chief, whose name signifies Shooting Star, was born not far from Springfield, Ohio, in 1768. His father, Puck-ish-in-wa, was of the Kis-a-pok tribe of the Shawneese; and his mother, Meth-on-taske, was one of the Turtle tribe of the same people. We all know how he traversed the wilderness back and forth from Detroit to New Orleans to urge the different tribes to take up the tomahawk; how, before his return his brother, Law-le-was-i-kan, (Open Door) who is better known as the Prophet, attacked Harrison Nov. 7, 1811, and brought on the decisive battle of Tippecanoe; how the Indians were so completely overthrown and vanquished as to entirely break their power in the northwest; how Tecumseh was so exasperated when he returned that he threatened to kill him for foiling his plans. All this is familiar with everyone.

What would have been the result had the Prophet waited till Tecumseh had completed his confederacy and brought on a united effort of all the Indians, none can tell. But undaunted, Tecumseh, with his few faithful followers joined the British and threw his weight in the scale against the United States, during the war of 1812; and after Hull's surrender of Detroit Aug. 16, 1812, he was made a brigader-general of the English army. He fought as only a man can who has his home, his native land and the graves of his fathers to defend. But the Power that rules the destinies of nations seemed against him and at the battle of the Thames, Oct. 5, 1813, the British mercilessly abandoned him to his fate. It is supposed that Richard M. Johnson fired the fatal shot, but this is not proven, and be that as it may, he was never heard of since, and

somewhere in this broad land, in an unknown grave sleeps one of the greatest men whose name adorns America's history. His life went out like a "Meteor" but his name shall shine as a fixed "Star" in the galaxy of American Heroes. This was the last effort to stay the march of civilization and with the exception of the effort that Black Hawk made in 1832 to make a stand at the Mississippi. It was the last blow struck for the freedom of the noble savage.

In September, 1817, at the foot of the Rapids, Louis Cass and Duncan McArthur made a treaty with the Wyandots, Senecas, Delawares, Shawnees, Pottawattomies, Ottawas and Chippewas by which the United States purchased of these tribes all of the land in the northwestern part of the state of Ohio and the northeastern portion of Indiana, excepting a few small reservations. The northern boundary of this tract was a line running due east from the southern point of Lake Michigan, afterwards known as the "Fulton Line."

In October, 1818, through General Cass, the Pottawattomies transferred the fertile valley of the Wabash and Tippecanoe, at what is known as the Treaty of Tippecanoe.

At Chicago, Aug. 29, 1821, General Cass negotiated what is known as the Treaty of Chicago, by which the Pottawattomies and their allies, the Ottawas and the Chippewas, for certain paltry moneyed considerations, ceded to the United States the following tract of land viz: "Beginning at a point on the river a few miles above St. Joe; thence south to a line running due east from the most southern point of Lake Michigan, thence east along said line designated in the Treaty of Detroit (being the line running due north from the mouth of the Auglaize River;) thence north along said line to a point due east of the source of the Grand River; thence west to its source; thence down the north bank of Grand River to its mouth; thence south along the shore of Lake Michigan to St. Joe, then up the river to place of beginning, excepting five designated reservations."

The United States were represented by Hon. Solomon Sibley and General Cass. The Chippewas were represented by two chiefs, the Ottawas by eight and Pottawattomies by fifty-five.

This treaty, which was the original deed for all this extent of territory was signed by the following chiefs: To-pe-na-bee, Me-te-ah, Che-ben-see, Lo-in-son, Wee-saw, Kee-po-taw, Schay-ank, Kee-bee, Scho-mang, Aw-be-to-nee, Waw-we-mick-e-mock, Nay-on-chee-mon, Kon-gee, Shee-shau-gau, Aysh-cam, Meek-say-mank, Moy-teu-way, Shaw-wen-ne-me-stuh, Fran-cois, Mauk-see, Way-me-go, Mau-dau-ming, Quay-guee, An-pen-haw-bee, Mat-cha-wee-yaas, Ash-ku-wee, Mat-cha-pog-gish, Mon-gau, Pug-ga-gaus, Ses-cob-en-nish, Chee-gwa-mack-gwa-go, Waw-seb-baw, Pee-chee-co, Quon-quoi-taw, Re-an-nish, Wy-ne-maig, On-muck-e-meck, Kaw-ay-sin, Am-eck-ko-se, Os-see-meet, Shaw-ko-to, Nosh-ay-wee-quat, We-gunn, Ma-esh-eke-teu-mon, Kee-no-to-ge, To-to-mee, Wa-baw-ne-shen, Shaw-waw-nay-se, Shaw-way-no, Atch-wee-muck-quee, Pish-she-ban-gay, Waw-bas-say, Meg-ges-see-se, Shee-shaw-gun, Say-gaw-koo-mick, Shay-auk-kee-bee.

Thus ended the Treaty of Chicago. The names of the Ottawas, and the Chippewas were not given in the history from which these names were taken. It says there were fifty-five Pottawattomies and the Ottawas and Chippewas were only allies; but nevertheless the list contained fifty-six names, as above given, which are the names attached to the original deed to all this vast territory.

It may be interesting to some to know, that the southeastern corner of this extensive tract is the present southeast corner of Frederick Crumrine's farm; and that the "Old Fulton Line," and the "Michigan Meridian" formed part of the boundaries of at least three extensive purchases of territory from the Indians. Surely we tread on interesting grounds, for the history of all this surrounding country finds its center here.

CHAPTER IV

INDIAN HISTORY CONCLUDED

We now quote from a letter from Hon. D.W.H. Howard and we find from it that the last camping grounds of the different tribes were located as follows:

"South of the Maumee at Wapakonetta were the Shawnees. There were about 1,200 of them and they were removed by the United States government to the lands now occupied by the state of Kansas, in the summer of 1832 or 1833. The Wyandots at Upper Sandusky, were removed in the early years of the forties and became near neighbors to the Shawnees in Kansas. The

Ottawas, about 3,000 in all, occupied both banks of the Maumee from Ft. Wayne to its mouth and were removed to the Osage River country near where now stands the village of Ottawa, Kansas, at different times, the first in 1825, the second in 1832 and the last in 1838. The principal chiefs were Turkey Foot, Nawash, O-to-saw and Kin-jo-i-no. These all took part in the battle of The Fallen Timbers. In after years Sharlow, Oc-que-nox-ie, Noc-i-che-was, Wos-sa-on-i-quet, Ot-to-i-kee, Wa-se-on and a number of others were noted chiefs or head of the Ottawas.

The Pottawattomies occupied all of the southern peninsula of Michigan, till met by the Ochibewaws, of the straits of Mackinac, on the north, and both southern Michigan and northern Indiana, west to where Chicago now stands.

There was a tribe on Bean Creek under Wy-na-maig whose principal village stood on the AEtna Ridge, the Indian name of which is Do-naw-ba, meaning twin boys. All these were under the rule of the famous chiefs Meteah and Bawbeece, whose principal village was located where Pioneer, Ohio, now stands, and whose tribe occupied the Little and Big St. Joseph and the Upper Tiffin Rivers. And north of the Pottawattomies, at Mackinac, were located the Ochibewaws; and in Minnesota were the Winnebagoes, under the famous chief Wabejeek, meaning White Crane.

At Rock Island, on both sides of the Mississippi, were the Sac and Fox tribes, under Black Hawk, or Muc-cut-ta-wish. The entire Wabash Valley was held and occupied by the Miamis, Weaws and Piau-ki-shaws, from Ft. Wayne to the White River. Below that were the Muncies, Delawares and Shawnese. There were also a few scattering tribes of Ochibewaws and Kickapoos who had intermarried with the other tribes and held the land in common with them.

As I have stated, this land was held by the Pottawattomies who were led by the chieftains Meteah and Bawbeece whose principal village was located where Pioneer now stands.

An article was recently published in the Pioneer Tri-State Alliance from which we take the following account of these warriors. "Mitteau (Me-te-ah) was a man strong and brave, about six feet high and a nobler specimen of a red man, I never saw. He was a warrior and took part in the wars and massacres of 1812. His tribe was really the Tawas, but by intermarrying they became identified as the Pottowattomies. He was madly fond of whiskey and it was after a full supply of this soul-destroying beverage, that he was found, one bitter, cold day, frozen to death in the forest; and was wrapped in his blanket and laid to rest on the banks of the stream, to drink and war no more."

"Bawbeece was a noble looking Indian and both he and his wife were worthy of the high esteem, in which they were held, for there very innate goodness. He was the pattern of a noble chieftain and leader, she, that of an affectionate wife and mother.

"In 1840 these tribes of the border were hunted and driven out of their native land by the government and the Pottawattomie family was scattered, some went for homes in the west and others migrated north to Canada. Bawbeece and a portion of his tribe choose the land of the strangers and he lived and hunted on the shores of the Georgian Bay and was finally laid to rest in the country."

Now from old settlers, I learn that there was an extensive camp at Edinburg and one, Jim Fitch, a half-breed, ran a store for a good many years, and one of the chiefs was Johnny Green. Another camp was at Chatfield's mill where they had a burying ground, just east of the creek. Another burying ground was on section 33, range 5 east, town 8 north, on the Greely farm, where also was an old camping ground. It was situated on the sand dune in the back part of his field, in the bend of Bean Creek. We learn that another burying ground was located on Bean Creek just below where Lockport now stands; also that there were several mounds of the Mound Builders at the same place, and that a skeleton of an Indian who must have been seven feet tall was unearthed there, and a great many relics have been found on both the Fish and Miller farms. A few years ago Mr. Joseph McLaughlin, while digging west of his house, exhumed a skeleton supposed to be that of an Indian but he must have been a giant, as the bones were very large and the jaws contained double teeth all around; and just southwest of the speakers stand at Shilling's Grove, again we find the graves of the noble savage. These no doubt, are only a few of the spots where the pale face treads unthinking, the graves of the children of nature. There was also a camp on what is now the Homer Morrison farm, near the German Church, and an extensive sugar camp on Cyrus Axtell's

place, on section 6, town 10 south, range 1 west. The Indians came back here a number of years after they had been removed and made sugar. The troughs were still there when Mr. Axtell settled on the place in 1846.

Now coming within the two miles from Master's Corners, we find a camp on section 36, range 4 east, town 8 north, on land now owned by James Randles, where they had an old sugar camp and made sugar there after John McLaughlin came to this country.

The sugar troughs were made of basswood bark, and their camps or huts were covered with the same material, cut in stripes about six inches wide. In the lower course the rough side of the bark was placed down and the cracks were covered by a course, with the rough part up. When these dried in the sun they formed a roof of alternate ridge and trough, that was proof against the heaviest rains.

There was also a camp of Pottawattomies on the banks of Mill Creek, east of Nathan Borton's on land now owned by Wm. McGowen. J.C. Mason locates this camp and says he was there a few days after they were removed and it must have been as late as 1842 or 1843; and that a year or two later they came back and were captured on the Benjamin Borton place and taken back to their reservation. Another extensive camping ground was located on section 1, on Nathan Borton's place, but we have no account of any tribes that camped there; but the remains of their old camp fires were seen all along the run, when Mr. Borton first came to this part of the country.

An old trail or road passed close by these camps. It crossed Mill Creek near the old Kibler saw mill and came up between N. Borton's, and John Mason's, crossed the Angola Road where P.R. Fisher's house now stands and then on through West Unity, by the way of Job Borton's, and the Powell place. George Ely says that this was only a road cut out by parties conveying supplies to the expedition that ran the Harris Line, while Wm. Haggerman and others are equally positive that it was an old Indian trail. These may both be correct, as it was not uncommon thing, in those early days, to cut out a road along an Indian trail. A man came to John Clifton some years ago who was looking for a certain marked tree, which he said once stood near this trail, but would not tell why he wanted to find it. Mr. Clifton thinks the tree in question was a large poplar which stood near the trail, on the Powell place and had a large fork or branch coming out a few feet above the ground. This is thought by some to have been the old Indian trail from Detroit to Ft. Wayne and I am told that the road running through West Unity, Bryan, Hicksville and on to Ft. Wayne was laid out along this trail. Thus the Indians have established a number of our roads, as well as locating a large number of our towns and cities, and as our roads have followed the Indian trail, so our towns were located by the Indian camp-fires and even a number of our railroads and canals were marked out by the "Foot prints of the Savage." First an Indian camp, a trading post, a fort, a town and then a city; an Indian trail, from camp to camp, a public road along which towns sprang up, and to bind these in commercial bonds, bands of steel were laid. As the great suspension bridge, that first spanned from nation to nation, across the dread Niagara, was first but the string of a kite, so the great Union Pacific, that first spanned a continent from civilization to civilization, was once but an Indian trail.

There was a well defined trail running from Maumee to Edinburg, thence up the south bank of Bates Run to an extensive camp, which was on sections 33 and 34, range 4 east, town 8 north. From here it passed on to where Pioneer now stands and then on to Bawbeece Lake, near Hillsdale, Mich. The camp on sections 33 and 34 was located where the old Asher Ely school house first stood, on the farm now owned by Edward Ritchey.

They were of the Tawas and Shawnee tribes. Their chiefs were Otto-i-kee and Waseon of the Tawas and Aay-e-nox-ie, a Shawnee, whose principal camp was on the Auglaize River, south of Defiance. I am so told, but in fact these chiefs were of the Ottawas. It is said that Aay-e-nox-ie was very indolent and depended almost entirely on the fortunes of the chase and laid by little or nothing for the future. One winter the snow became very deep and so hard a crust formed on it, that it was almost impossible for the Indians to get out and they were nearly reduced to starvation. One day Aay-e-nox-ie was hunting on Mill Creek and shot a wolf that was so nearly starved that it had been eating blue clay to keep alive. This was brought into camp and the Indians made soup of it on which they managed to subsist until the

snow melted enough so they could get out and find better game.

Aay-e-nox-ie was supposed to be the son of old Oc-que-nox-ie, who was occasionally seen through this part of the country. Oc-que-nox-ie claimed to have been born under the famous apple tree at Defiance, and in 1835, he had seen the frosts of over eighty autumns turn its leaves to crimson. This historic tree stands on the banks of the Maumee River just opposite old Fort Defiance, and is the largest known apple tree in the world. It measures 7 feet in diameter, and 23 feet in circumference, and at one time it measured fifty feet across its branches, and has born two hundred bushels of apples in a single season. It is very old, not less than one hundred and fifty years, and some suppose that it was planted there by La Salle, in 1680, during his exploration of the Maumee.

Both this and the legend of Little Turtle being born under the apple tree near Ft. Wayne, no doubt, originated from the same occurrence. Which is true I did learn, both may be correct.

The papooses of this tribe were the playmates of L.G. Ely when he was a child and they were camped here, off and on, till 1838 and some say 1840. One day Mrs. George Ely was kneading bread when she felt little Lafe, as he was called, pull at her dress, and on looking around she saw five large Indians, filing in at the doorway, (they had no doors yet) and the foremost was whetting a large butcher knife. Mrs. Ely was terribly frightened. When the Indians saw this, they were greatly amused, and had a good laugh, as they merely intended to frighten her. L.G. Ely and his father visited this camp on Sunday and witnessed a horse race. The horses stood head to tail, and at the word, started off in opposite directions at their utmost speed. Each ran to a certain tree and returned; and the riders were trusted entirely to their honesty, as no one was stationed to see if they did not go the proper distance. There was all the enthusiasm of a modern horse race, with none of the cheating and trickery of the present times.

This seemed to be the dividing or neutral grounds between the Ottawas and Pottawattomies, for we find the Ottawas on Bates' Run and on Mill Creek a camp of Pottawattomies. This camp was on the run near the center of section 36, range 1 west, town 9 south, on the northwest corner of William Garrison's place. The camp was located on top of an extensive ridge, or hog-back, and there was a well graded pike or road extending from the camp to Mill Creek, a distance of some twenty rods. "Mike" Martzolf says that while hunting near this camp, some years ago, he discovered about a bushel of Indian arrow heads all in one pile, but they have all been carried off. The Indians who camped here were a mixed tribe of Tawas, Pottawattomies, Shawnees and Kickapoos and their chief, Old Bawbeece was often met here by the early settlers. Mr. Severance and others of the early settlers frequently visited this camp. At one time several went to barter for wild honey. The Indians did not have any strained, so they took a coon skin, cut off that portion that covers the head, then put in the combs and squeezed the honey through the natural openings of the skin. The parties, when they saw this, concluded they did not want any honey. At another time, several parties were at the camp and the Indians who had been down to Mill Creek to bathe a sick squaw, brought her into camp, riding bareback and clothed in her gorgeous simplicity — a pair of earrings, a bare skin gown and a yard or two of sunshine. Just west of this camp there is a large mound which has the shape of a new made grave, some ten or fifteen rods long. This is thought to be the work of the Mound Builders, but has never been investigated.

There was another extensive camp on the bluff east of Mill Creek on the south side of section 31 of Gorham, on the farm known as the Gorsuch place, but I did not learn anything definite concerning the Indians who once called that spot their home.

The extract I quoted from the Pioneer Tri-State Alliance, I brought to the notice of Hon. D.W.H. Howard, from whose letters I again quote:

"I will reply to your quotation from the Alliance, as it is to some extent correct. The Indians were not hunted and driven out in 1840 by the government, but there were portions of them removed in 1832 and 1838 to their new homes west of the Mississippi. Duncan Forsythe, Curt Roby and myself were employed by the government to gather in the Indians preparatory to their removal. Now many of the older ones could not bear to leave the 'graves of their fathers and go so far towards the setting sun,' and we boys took the "responsibility" (quoting from General Jackson) to tell them to 'stay in the woods and

keep out of sight,' which many of them did and years afterward wandered away (to them the more friendly nation) to the British government, and there made their last home. Winemeg, Shatte and many others occasionally wandered back to their old home at the springs, where Winemeg now stands. Poor people, how I pitied them. Once the proud owners of all the lands and when I last saw them, they had no place to lay their heads. I always gave them a camping place, for when they fought us it was but in self-defense and the purest of God's creatures will strike back for life. Now concerning Bawbeece. He may have gone to the Georgian Bay, to hunt and fish, but I know he never went there permanently. The last time I saw the 'Old Bald Headed' chief was above Council Bluffs on the Missouri, in 1841. He came in my trading house one evening and was pretty cock koosy, but was very friendly. I had a long talk with the old man, as he was always my friend and called me his son. I asked him when he would leave the Upper Missouri country and go down to the Indian Territory with the rest of his people? He replied that he would not go there, but he would exchange his land on the 'Kaw' or Kansas River, at the forks of the 'Kaw' which he succeeded in doing in 1843 or 1844; and as he was then an old man of perhaps eighty-five summers, he must have long since been called by the Great Spirit and taken up the long trail to the Great Hunting grounds, and without a doubt lies buried on the banks of The Beautiful 'Kaw,' far away from the once happy hunting grounds on the borders of Mill Creek and the Little St. Joe."

And the Pottawattomies, who once owned all of Northern Ohio and Indiana and the southern peninsula of Michigan, now occupy a small strip about the size of Fulton county, lying between the north and south forks of the Republican River, in far off Indian Territory. Thus the children of the wilderness have been scattered, like the leaves of the wildwood or like the mists of the morning before the rising sun; and like the oaks of the forest, through which they once roamed, "they have been cut down, torn and trampled on." Few if any remain who once fished in our streams or hunted in our valleys and saw and worshiped The Great Spirit in every thing from the sun that rose in all his majesty, to the sparkling dewdrop that glittered on the spray.

Of the rest, the great concourse, all that can be said, is, they lived, loved and when life's wars were o'er,

They entered the bark and were lost to sight
In the glittering scheme of the line of light,

That comes o'er the lake, from the East afar
From the Wabun annung, from the Morning star,

And long ere this they have reached the strands
Of the Manitoulin and its sacred sands —

'Tis the Manitoulin of the good and blest,
'Tis the white man's heaven and the red man's rest;

And the rythmic waves scarce will pulse the swell,
As they ripple back their long last farewell.

CHAPTER V

COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

Three new counties were organized out of the Indian Territory in 1820 and named after David Williams, John Paulding and Isaac Van Wert, the three young men who captured Major Andre. One of these, Williams County, at first included all of the present county of Williams, south of the "Fulton Line," the present county of Defiance, and the two tiers of sections, off of towns 6, 7 and 8 north, range 4 east, now belonging to Fulton County. Prior to April 1st, 1824, Williams County was attached to Wood County for judiciary purposes. The first election was held in 1824, and on December 6th of that year, the commissioners met at Defiance and annexed the counties of Henry, Paulding and Putnam to Williams County for judiciary purposes. On February 3rd, 1835, Ohio laid claim to the "Disputed Territory," and March 30th, 1835, the commissioners extended Williams County to the Harris Line.

In 1845 Defiance County was struck off and April 1, 1850, Fulton County was formed from the old counties of Lucas, Henry and Williams when a strip two miles wide off of Brady, and three miles wide off of Mill Creek Township, were set off from Williams to Fulton County, leaving the present county of Williams.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

All of range 4 east, north of town 3 was at first included in Auglaize Township which was changed on December, 1824, to Defiance Township and remained as such up to December 6th, 1831, when the commissioners formed Tiffin Township, which comprised towns 5, 6, 7 and 8 north of range 4 east. The commissioners met March 30, 1835, and set off towns 6, 7, and 8 of Tiffin to a new township, designated as Springfield, which at the same time was extended to the "Harris Line," and included a strip one mile wide off of the west end of towns 9 and 10 south, of range 1 east, belonging to Lenawee County, Michigan, and all of town 9, south of "Harris Line," and town 10 south, of range 1 west, excepting the west tier of sections, which were attached to Beaver Township. About the same time towns 9 and 10 south, range 1 west were formed by Michigan into Mill Creek Township of Hillsdale County. Thus this tract was claimed by two townships at the same time, and Springfield Township for about a year, included a portion of three different counties. This was the first township within the present limits of Williams County to be settled. The first election was held at the house of Sarah Luther, May 16th, 1835, at which time the following officers were elected: Jonathan B. Taylor, clerk; Bruce Packard, John Stubbs and Harmon Doolittle, trustees; Daniel Colgan and Abram Worts, overseers of the poor; Joseph Stubbs, John Fielders and Joseph Bates, fence viewers, Joseph H. Stubbs and Calvin Gleason, constables; John Lindenberger and Joseph Bates, supervisors; Thomas J. Prettyman, treasurer; but on November 12th, the trustees appointed Daniel Colgan treasurer. As none of these lived north of the Fulton Line, we infer that those who lived north of said line remained loyal to Michigan.

This brings us to the Toledo War, and as the formation of the other townships depended largely on the results of that issue, I will give here a brief sketch of the causes and results. But to consider this properly we will have to go back to 1816, in which year William Harris established what is known as the "Harris Line." This line was run from the most northern cape of Maumee Bay, south, 87 degrees west with needle variations of 3 degrees and 32 minutes, or to make it plain to all, a line running from the most northern point of Maumee Bay, westward to the most southern point of Lake Michigan. This line afterwards became the boundary line between the states of Ohio and Michigan.

In 1818 John A. Fulton established a line due east from the most southern point of Lake Michigan, which intersected Lake Erie seven miles south of the "Harris Line." This was known as the "Fulton Line," and is marked on our maps as the "old state line."

That this was considered the state line is evident from the fact that Ohio surveyed all the lands south and the United States surveyed all the lands north of this line.

In 1829 Captain Talcott assisted by Robert E. Lee, who afterwards won such renown for his generalship while leading the Confederate army, established the latitude and longitude of the most southern point of Lake Michigan, the most northern point of Maumee Bay and the most southern point of the International line between the United States and Canada. It was then found that Lake Michigan extended farther south and the Maumee Bay farther north than they were represented on the maps. This made further discrepancy in the description of the northern boundary of Ohio but nothing more serious than a wordy controversy between Ohio and Michigan took place until some five years later. This controversy concerning the boundary between Ohio and Michigan was commenced in 1805, when Michigan territory was formed, and, with the exception of a few years, during the war of 1812, had been kept up with more or less fervor ever since. When the Wabash Canal was surveyed in 1834, it was found that it would have to pass north of the "Fulton Line" in order to enter the Maumee Bay in navigable waters. This Michigan opposed and February 13th, 1835, passed a law imposing a heavy fine on any one trespassing on her territory, and sent a body of militia to Toledo to enforce this act; and to counteract this, Ohio passed an act February 23rd, 1835, laying claim to all the land south of the "Harris Line," under the provision in her constitution that the line should be north of the Maumee Bay.

Then Michigan drafted her constitution and claimed all the land north of the "Fulton Line" under the stipulations of the ordinance of 1787, which said the line should run east from the most southern point of Lake Michigan. The Williams County commissioners extended Williams County to the "Harris Line" March 30th, 1835, and three commissioners were appointed to run and remark the line. Accordingly both states

organized their forces and prepared for war. I am told that a body of militia, under Zachary Taylor, encamped where the West Unity cemetery is now located and Governor Mason, of Michigan, had a body of militia under Gen. Brown at Adrian. The commissioners with a large force left Defiance and arrived at the "Fulton Line" April 19, 1835. Here they halted for a parley, but Governor Lucas gave them orders to run the line at all hazards. They went on and surveyed 38 1/2 miles when the militia under General Brown came upon them and captured nine of the party, and the rest of them got into Ohio as quickly as possible.

The nine men captured by Gen. Brown's forces were taken to Monroe, Michigan, where they were kept in the Monroe jail for a long time.

Whether Robert E. Lee had charge of this first expedition, or was sent out later by the United States government to complete the survey I could not learn. History only states that Robert E. Lee established the boundary line between Ohio and Michigan in 1835. Hon. W.D. Hill says that he was then captain of civil engineers and had charge of the survey, but Chambers says, "Robert E. Lee entered West Point as cadet in 1825, from which he graduated in 1829, and entered the services as brevet second lieutenant of engineers; was appointed assistant astronomer for fixing the boundary between Ohio and Michigan in 1835; was promoted to first lieutenant in 1836, and to captain in 1838."

The Ohio legislature had created Lucas County and provided for the court to be held on September 7th, 1835. Governor Lucas sent his adjutant general to Lucas County to hold court, and he directed Colonel Van Fleet and his regiment to act as a posse. Accordingly the judges, sheriff and attendants met at Miami, on Sunday, the 6th, to proceed the next morning to Toledo to hold the court. Col Van Fleet had about one hundred men to disperse any mob that might collect. But Sunday evening information came that General Brown and 1,200 Michigan soldiers were in Toledo to prevent the holding of the court. Every one was confounded except Van Fleet. He selected 20 of his best men and prepared for action. He said there was no hour specified and that the 7th commenced at mid-night, so at precisely 1 o'clock Van Fleet with the judges and officers of the court proceeded to Toledo, which they reached about 3 o'clock in the morning, and while the Michigan soldiers were asleep, they hunted up a school-house, held court for two minutes and, as one of the party said, "the militia are coming," they mounted their war chargers, imitated the actions of the tiger, and struck out for dear life for Maumee. When at the top of the hill, where the Oliver house now stands, they came to a halt. It was then discovered that the clerk, Horatio Conant, had lost his hat, and with it the papers making the court legal, and established the right of Ohio to the disputed territory, and he was so scared that he did not know where he had lost it. So all the work thus far had been for nothing. But Van Fleet ordered two guards to dismount and feel their way back in the dark. They did so and found the hat, and the papers were recovered. The state of Ohio is now triumphant, and the records made from these papers still exist.

Early in 1835 President Jackson appointed Benjamin Howard, of Maryland and Richard Bush, of Pennsylvania, as commissioners to settle the dispute between Ohio and Michigan. They decided at first in favor of Michigan, but the United States congress decided on Jun. 16th, 1836, that the "Harris Line" should be the state line, and that Michigan could not be admitted as a state unless she accepted this boundary. Michigan called an election and voted "no," then to pacify her, the Upper Peninsula was offered, which she accepted December 16th, 1836, after holding another election and voting "yes," and was formally admitted as a state January 26th, 1837.

Thus ended the struggle between Ohio and Michigan.

BRADY

March 7th, 1836, the commissioners met and formed all of Springfield Township, north of town 6 into a new township which at first was designated Bradie, after Captain Bradie, but afterwards changed to Brady. This new township included all of towns 7 and 8 north, range 4 east and a strip one mile wide off of the west end of towns 9 and 10 south, range 1 east, then belonging to Lenawee County, and all south of the "Harris Line" of town 9 south and town 10 south, range 1 west, excepting the west tier of sections; although the last two towns were still claimed by Hillsdale County, Michigan. Thus Brady, like Springfield Township, comprised a

portion of three different counties prior to June 16th, 1836, at which time that portion north of the "Fulton Line" legally became a part of Brady Township.

On the first Monday of April, 1836, the several voters met at Lockport and organized the township and held the first election at which time, I am told, the following officers were chosen: Clerk, Bruce Packard; treasurer, John Rings; trustees, George Ely, John McLaughlin and Wm. H. McGrew; justices of the peace, John Rings and James Knipe. At this election there were only eleven votes cast, George Ely casting the only Whig vote all the rest being Democratic. Mr. Ely cast the only Whig vote at the presidential election the following fall out of the thirteen votes cast, and as he could not secure a printed ticket he cut one out of a newspaper and voted it. In the four first presidential years the following vote was cast: In 1836, 13; in 1840, 53; in 1844, 85; and in 1848, 149.

March 4, 1839, all of Brady Township north of the "Fulton Line," was set off to Mill Creek, and April 1st, 1850, two tiers of sections off of the east end of towns 7 and 8 north, range 4 east, were set off to Fulton County leaving the present limits of Brady.

MILL CREEK

March 4, 1839, all of Jefferson and Brady Townships, north of the "Fulton Line" was organized into a new township called Mill Creek, which included a strip one mile wide off of the west end of towns 9 and 10 south, range 1 east; all south of the "Harris Line" of towns 9 and 10 south, range 1 west, and all south of the "Harris Line" of towns 9 and 10 south, range 2 west, excepting the west tier of sections. March 6th, 1843, all of Mill Creek Township included in towns 9 and 10 south, range 2 west, and the tier of sections of towns 9 and 10 south, range 1 west, was set off to a new township called Madison, and April 1st, 1850, the strip one mile wide off of the west end of towns 9 and 10 south, range 1 east, and two tiers of sections of towns 9 and 10 south, range 1 west, were set off to Fulton county; and about the same time the west tier of cections of towns 9 and 10 south, range 1 west, was given back to Mill Creek from Madison, making the present limits of Mill Creek Township. The vote of Mill Creek Township in 1840 was 20, in 1844, 40, and in 1848, 87.

CHESTERFIELD

Chesterfield Township was organized in 1837, and at first comprised all of towns 9 and 10 south, range 1, and towns 9 and 10 south, range 2 east, south of the state line excepting a strip one mile wide off of the southwest end of towns 9 and 10, range 1 east. In 1838 all south of the "Harris Line" of towns 9 and 10 south, of range 1 east, and the west half of sections 7 and 18 of towns 9 south, range 2 east, was set off to Gorham, and in 1843 town 10 south, range 2 east was set off to Dover, leaving the present township of Chesterfield.

GORHAM

In 1838 Gorham was organized out of the west half of Chesterfield and at first comprised the west half of section 7 and 18 of town 9 south, range 2 east, and that part of town 9 south of the state line, and town 10 south of range 1 east, excepting a strip one mile wide off of the west end, which then belonged to Brady, but afterwards to Mill Creek. In 1842 town 10 south, range 1 east was set off to Franklin, and in 1850 the strip one mile wide off of the west end of town 9 south, range 1 east, and two tiers of sections off of town 9 south, range 1 west, were added from Mill Creek making the township of Gorham as we find it.

GERMAN

In 1840 German Township was formed from the old township of York and at first embraced towns 7 and 8 north, range 5 east; and in 1842 town 8 north, and the north row of sections of town 7 north, range 5 east was set off to Franklin. In 1850 there was added two rows of sections off of 6 north, range 5 east, and two tiers of sections excepting sections 1 and 2, off of the east end of town 7 north, range 4 east, forming the present township of German.

FRANKLIN

Franklin Township was formed in 1842 of town 10 south, range 1 east of Michigan meridian, excepting a strip one mile wide off of the west

off of the north side of town 7 north, range 5 east. This was the original township, but in 1850 the strip one mile wide off of the west end of town 10 south, range 1 east, and two tiers of sections off of the east end of town 10 south, range 1 west, were added from Mill Creek, and two tiers of sections off of the east end of town 8 north, and sections 1 and 2 off of the northeast corner of town 7 north, range 4 east, were added from Brady, making the township its present limits.

I believe that Franklin Township is the worst piece of patch work in the state. Although it only contains twenty-nine square miles, it contains the whole or part of six different congressional towns, and is composed of five distinct historical tracts of land - three north and two south of the old "Fulton Line." All north of the "Fulton Line" has been in the Indian, Northwest, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan Territories, and in the State of Ohio and that portion west of the Michigan Meridian has been in the counties of Kent, Wayne, Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, Williams and Fulton, and in the townships of St. Joe and Mill Creek, attached to Springfield and Brady, then in Brady, Mill Creek and Franklin. The strip one mile wide between the Michigan Meridian and the old Williams County line has been in the counties of Kent, Wayne, Monroe, Lenawee, Williams and Fulton, and attached to Springfield and Brady, and in Brady, Mill Creek and Franklin Townships. The portion east of the Williams County line has been in Kent, Wayne, Monroe, Lenawee, Lucas and Fulton Counties, and in York, Chesterfield, Gorham and Franklin Townships. I have no history of Lenawee County so the last two may have been in other townships.

That portion south of the "Fulton Line" has been in the territories of Indians, Northwest and Ohio, and in the State of Ohio. That portion east of the old Williams County line, or in range 5 east, has been in the counties of Kent, Wayne, attached to Williams, then in Henry, Lucas and Fulton Counties, and in York, German and Franklin Townships. The portion west of the old Williams County line, or in range 4 east, has been in Kent, Wayne, attached to Wood, then in Williams and Fulton Counties, and in the townships of Auglaize, Defiance, Tiffin, Springfield, Brady and Franklin. Thus the territory included within the present limits of Franklin Township has formed a part of ten different counties, and at least thirteen different townships. A correct history of this township must include a sketch of all these different counties and townships; and as the early records of both Lenawee and Fulton Counties have been destroyed by fire I am afraid that this will never be accomplished. Also I would call especial attention to the strip of country two miles wide off of the east end of the old township of Brady, and three miles wide off of the east end of the old township of Mill Creek as it is virtually without a written history. As it is no longer a part of Williams County, it is of little interest to the Williams County historian, while the writer of the Fulton County History has not considered it of enough importance to go to the Williams County records, or to secure from the old inhabitants its history and give it a proper place in the History of Fulton County. The Fulton County History scarcely mentions this strip of territory, when, in fact, it has the most important history of the county. For it was here in February, 1832, that there came the first white man that permanently settled, and it was here, in the same year, the first grain was raised within the present limits of Fulton County. Here in 1836, no doubt was taught the first school on Fulton County's territory. It was here in 1849, the first M.E. Church, and perhaps the first church of any denomination in the county, was built. Here, in 1852 was erected the first Presbyterian Church built northwest of the Maumee, and here in 1852 and 1853, was built the first Baptist Church in Fulton County. Here in 1850, was built perhaps the first and only whiskey distillery erected within its limits. Here no doubt lived the first person to be married who resided within the limits of Fulton County; and just across the line stands the only Friends or Quaker Church in Northwestern Ohio.

CHAPTER VI

EARLY SETTLERS

The first white man we have any account of who lived anywhere within the old limits of Williams or the present limits of Fulton Counties, was Antoine Lassalle; a French Canadian, who is said to have lived at Little Turtle's town, on Bean Creek from 1790 till 1794. Where this town

stood, I could not ascertain. Mr. Howard, who perhaps has known this country longer than any other white man now living, says that he does not know anything about the place. O.G. Greely says, "There was no indications of a camp from Evansport to the mouth of Bean Creek, excepting right at the mouth, where the Indians had a small piece of ground cleared on which they used to raise beans." This is one of the reasons given for the stream being called by the name of Bean Creek. There were old Indian camps at Edinburg, on O.G. Greely's farm, and at Chatfields mill, and the town may have stood at one of these places and have been deserted long before any white man now living had penetrated this vast wilderness.

But now for facts.

We learn from the history of Rev. O.M. Spencer, who when yet a boy, was held a captive by the Indians, at Grand Glaise, (Defiance) for a year or two previous to 1790; that the British had had a trading post at that point a good many years prior to that date, and that during his stay there a brother of Simon Girty occupied one of the half dozen cabins then located there.

I also learn that Johnny Appleseed visited the Indians throughout all this region, for the purpose of preaching and planting apple seeds. He also sowed the dog fennel over large portions of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, wherever he found a house or Indian camp, supposing it to be anti-malarial. We hear of him as early as 1801. Without arms, he passed time and again through northwestern Ohio, visiting in safety the hostile tribes preaching and sowing his seeds. He died in Allen County, Indiana, in the year 1847, at the age of 74 years, and rests in an unknown grave.

August 8th, 1794, Gen. Wayne arrived at Grand Glaise and built Fort Defiance, and Mrs. Ezekiel Masters says that her father, John Perkins, the son of Reuben Perkins, who died at Lexington, Kentucky, more than ninety years ago, at the remarkable age of 110 years - came to Ohio in 1808 and settled in Ross County. In 1818 Mr. Perkins came to the Maumee and settled on its banks five miles below Defiance, and in 1823 moved to where Brunersburg now stands, and soon after built there the first mill within the old limits of Williams County, and that he came to where Pulaski now stands in 1833. This corrects a mistake in the Williams County History which says that he settled in Brunersburg in 1818, and soon after built the first mill in the old limits of Williams County. He and his family moved to Pulaski in 1833 and soon after built the Pulaski mill which it is believed was the first in the present limits of the county. But the same History says that Samuel Holton built a mill on Fish Creek, one mile north of the present town of Edgerton as early as 1830. I learn that Mr. Perkins was also a surveyor, and laid out the road from West Unity to Bryan. I find in the old Williams County History "that J.P. Lutz settled at the mouth of Beaver, Jul. 26, 1823," but this does not seem to be substantiated so without a doubt James Guthrie, who settled on Bean Creek at the mouth of the Beaver in 1827, and William Hollingshead, who at the same time settled near by, were the first white settlers within the old limits of Springfield Township and the present limits of Williams County, and Mr. Guthrie's daughter, Louisa, now Mrs. Isaac Kent, of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, was the first white child born within the present limits of Williams County. She was the oldest of the Guthrie family, and was born at the mouth of Beaver Creek, Nov. 11, 1832. Her sister Rachel was born in April, 1834, and died in 1854, and was never married. Catharine Guthrie married David Kent. These facts are from letters from Mr. Isaac Kent, who says he copied them from the Guthrie Family Records, and says they can be substantiated, also that Mrs. Kent holds a certificate from the Williams County Agricultural Society, stating that she was the first white child born within its present limits. This will certainly set aside the statement in the Williams County History that Fred A. Knipe, who was born Sept. 11, 1834, was the first child born within its present limits, thus correcting one of the many mistakes of that volume.

When the "Ohio Survey" was made, Bean Creek or Tiffin River was declared navigable to the "Fulton Line," and sometime between 1835 and 1838, a party laid out a large city on the west bank of the creek, just south of the "Fulton Line." The town was called Amsterdam, and contained about 140 acres, and was a big place on paper. As it was located at the head of navigation, it would of course soon become the metropolis of the great northwest. The lots were sold at good prices, but Bean Creek failed to navigate and the purchasers never came on, or if they did they saw the absurdity of building a

town at such a place and went back thinking that they were a set of Amsterdam fools. The town is now owned by Mr. Coon and Mr. P.W. Poorman and perhaps partly by Jesse Gortner, and is yet mostly in the woods. I am indebted to O.G. Greely for the following account of this place. "The town was on the old Mr. Merilott farm, and after his death, in the divide, it fell to Peter Merilott, and now belongs to Mr. Coon. If you have had a peep into the Bohemian oats scheme you can readily comprehend this paper city. A tract of land was entered by Heffenstine, at the Register of the land office, and on this property the site was platted. Before Fulton county was organized, a man by the name of McMannus came to my house and showed me a plat of the city. It was gotten up in good style and covered a good part of the northwest quarter section 33; the Coon and Poorman lots, and I think, but am not certain, a part of Gortner's in section 32. To make the thing take well a great many of the lots were marked "sold." The bend of the river that projected into the plat had a steamboat well represented, marked "U.S. Mail" on the stern. The plat purported to be the work of a man named Brown. This is what I know, but McMannus told me that the Hoffenstine boys carried this plat about Cincinnati and vicinity and sold what lots they could, representing the city of Amsterdam as being a flourishing place, with bright prospects ahead, that they owed him a large amount, and were rather slippery and by paying some $200 or $300, he secured the unsold lots, in all it cost him over $2,000. This was his story. John Shaffer who once owned the Christ Roth's farm, told me that Arrowsmith, one of the first county surveyors of Williams County, surveyed the lots, and that he, Shaffer, placed the stone for the starting point. How many lots were staked I never learned, but enough at least for a pretense. Further he said, the Evanses of Defiance were concerned in it. This to me looks highly probable as they did sell some lots in Lockport and other places. A beech tree bearing the name of A. Evans, one of the men, stood on the site of Amsterdam until within a few years.

L.G. Ely says there were two acres laid out in town lots on the west bank of Bean Creek, just south of the Angola Road, which had remained in the name of 'The State of Ohio' until after he became auditor when it was sold for delinquent taxes to O.S. Ely and it now belongs to Mr. Zimmerman. This perhaps was laid out by Mr. Chatfield, who settled just opposite on section 4 in a very early day, and I am told that as early as 1834 he had a saw mill in successful operation there and a store where he traded with the Indians. What he did with a saw mill in that early day is a mystery to me unless he used it to cut the bargains he drove with the Indians.

Now coming near the corners, I find that the first settlers within the present limits of Franklin and the old limits of Brady, were Joseph Bates and family, who in 1832 settled on the southeast quarter of section 2, town 7 north, range 4 east, and all this country for years was known as the Bates settlement. From a letter from his daughter, combined with the statements of several of the first settlers, I have obtained the following sketch of Mr. Bates' life, which had become almost legendary, but I have been very careful to give only the facts on which the majority agree. Joseph Bates was born in Vermont in the year 1787. From Vermont he went to Canada, where he married Harriet Dodge by whom he had eight children, four sons and four daughters, who came with him to Williams County. Truman, who moved with the Packards to Missouri in 1840; Thomas, who died on the Isthmus of Panama, while on his way to California about 1849; Joseph, who died in Iowa in 1867 or 1868; James, who now resides in Boon County, Iowa; Harriet, Mrs. Theron Landon; Belinda, Mrs. Warren Hancock; Mary, Mrs. Cyrus Barrett, and Elizabeth, Mrs. Hiram Alvord, now of Reading, Michigan. Mr. Bates moved from Canada to New York, and from there he moved to Richland County, Ohio, where he settled in a very early day. In the summer and winter of 1830 and 1831, Ezekiel Masters says "He took his gun, dogs, bear and wolf traps and 150 muskrat traps and came to Harden County, where he hunted and trapped till spring and lived on muskrats and other game which he caught or shot. He bought his land in Williams County with the money that he got for the bear's oil and skins, wolf scalps, coon, muskrat and beaver skins, and had $130 in money left." In February, 1832, in the dead of winter, he started with his family for his new home, and cut his road through an unbroken wilderness from Ottawa to Defiance, and stopped a short time with John Perkins at Brunersburg. From there he went to where Pulaski now stands, and cut the road through to

what is now the Shilling's farm where he lived for three days in his wagon until he built a cabin. The cabin stood near the confluence of Bates and Ayers Runs on the farm now owned by John Shillings, and his nearest neighbor was Mr. Opdyke 12 miles away. Here he cleared some land and raised the first grain within the present limits of Fulton County, but spent the greater portion of his time hunting and trapping. In the spring of 1835 he was elected the first supervisor, and the first fence viewer in Springfield Township. On June 7, 1836, his daughter, Harriot, married Theron Landon, who was the first person married in what afterwards became Mill Creek Township, and Miss Bates the first in the old limits of Brady, and so no doubt the first within the limits of Fulton County. In 1840 he sold his farm to Wm. Ayres and bought of Asher Ely the farm now owned by Jacob Schenk in section 10 and 11. He first lived in a log house which stood in a field southwest of the present graveyard. Here on the 20th of March 1845, his first wife died, and the following year he married Mrs. Joseph Borton a sister of Benjamin, Nathan, John and Job Borton, who are so well known throughout this country. In the year 1852 he erected a large frame tavern, which was the first within the present limits of Franklin Township, which he ran for a number of years, and the building remained as an old land mark till December 30, 1885, when it was destroyed by fire. He called it "J. Bates' Inn," and it was largely patronized as the Angola Road was then the great thoroughfare for travelers and the movers to their western homes. He and Theron Landon cut and logged out the Angola Road from Joseph Ely's to his place, and Mr. Cogswell cut the road from there to Cogswell's Corners, west of the St. Joe. Mr. Bates lived on this farm till 1861, when he moved to Iowa and died in Storey County of that state, August 1, 1866, at the advanced age of 79 years.

I will now diverge a little from my plan of presenting these articles in order to notice our old Revolutionary soldier. James Hagerman was born in Holland, in 1746, and his wife Abigal McNabb, was born in Scotland in 1752; but when they came to this county, or when they were married, I could not learn. Mr. Hagerman served seven years in the Revolutionary War, and endured the sufferings and privations of Valley Forge. After the war he settled in Virginia, where he resided until 1816, when he moved his family to Richland County, Ohio, and in 1836 he came with his son, John J., and his family to Williams County. They were ten days crossing the Black Swamp, a distance of only thirty miles, and there was no road from Maumee to Darby's, excepting a wagon track through the woods. When they came to Bean Creek the water was too deep for the oxen to ford, but there were some twelve or fifteen Indians on the west bank and an old chief got in his canoe and came across to them. They unhitched the oxen and tied a long rope to the end of the wagon tongue, with which the chief rowed back, and the Indians took hold of the rope and pulled the wagon across. Mr. Hagerman settled on section 33, just west of the Joseph Powell place. Here in April, 1839, Mrs. Hagerman passed away at the good old age of 87 years, and in April, 1840, Mr. Hagerman passed beyond the bourne at the remarkable age of 94 years, and they lie side by side in unmarked graves in the West Unity Cemetery. Here we have one of the old patriots buried in our midst, and not even a stone to mark his resting place. His son,John J., who perhaps was the first minister settled in this territory, died at the same place in 1844, at the age of 50, and lies buried by his father's side.

According to the Fulton County History the first settlers in German Township were George Kibler, Jacob Bender, —— Lauber and A.S. Fleet; but in another place, in the same History, we find that Christian Lawver built the first house in German in September, 1834. This no doubt should have been Christian Lauber, thus making the two names coincide. This may be correct concerning the old limits of German, but I know that Thurman Bates, a son of Joseph Bates, had settled on section 12, town 7 range north 4 east, of the present township of German as early as February, 1833, thus making him the first settler of the township.

Excepting Mr. Chatfield, whose history I did not learn, the first settler in the old limits of Franklin Township, and in the old limits of Gorham Township, and perhaps in the old limits of Chesterfield Township, was Dorsey Barnes, who was born in Washington County, Maryland, September 3, 1808, and located on section 2, town 10 south, range 1 east, in September, 1834, the same day that the first house was built in German Township. S.B. Darby, Asher Bird, John

Shaffer, Adam Poorman, and some others located in the old limits of Franklin in 1835. In 1852 Reuben Mason laid out the town of Trenton on the south side of section 1, town 10 south, range 1 west, which at one time contained a schoolhouse, ashery, pearlhouse, store, blacksmith shop, postoffice, and four dwellings, all of which are things of the long past. Mr. Riddle says that the first white child born in Franklin Township was Ann Poorman, now Mrs. Royal Stevens. She was born September 28, 1836.

The Fulton County History says, "The territory of Gorham was first settled by Levi Crawford and Gorham Cottrell in 1833 and soon after by Elisha A. Baker, Freeman Coffin and Lucius Ford." This is incorrect as both N. Shaw and Sardis Cottrell say that the first settler was Hiram Farwell, who settled in 1834 or 1835; that Freeman and Clement Coffin came in June, 1835, that Gorham Cottrell did not come till September, 1835, and Erastus and Joseph Cottrell, James Baker, Martin Lloyd, Stephen Chaffee, Phillip Clapper and William Lee all came about the same time." I also find that David Severence, John Gillett and Abijah Coleman settled the same year in that portion set off from Williams County. Messrs. Shaw and Cottrell also say that Elisha A. Baker and N. Shaw came in 1838. That Lucius Ford came in the spring of 1839, walking all the way from Cummington, Hamshire County, Massachusetts, in eighteen days. That Hosea Ford moved his family from Massachusetts the same spring, but his father Ansel Ford and Asa Cottrell did not come until the spring of 1841. Erastus Cottrell was the first postmaster and the first justice of the peace in Gorham Township.

In the historical sketch of Chesterfield, we are told that Alfred C. Hough, Samuel Gillis and Robert Clemins were the first settlers of the township, and in the personal histories we find that Chesterfield Clemins, who came in 1834, was the first settler, and the township was named after him. We also find that Nathaniel Persons and George and E.B. Clark came the same year. Then we find that Mr. Stutzman came in 1831. Then we find this astounding piece of history, that Chancy Bulkley was born in 1829, and was married in 1823 to Salome Kelley, who was born in 1831, and they settled in Fulton County in 1844. Thus they were married six and eight years before they were born, and were only fifteen and thirteen years old when they settled here. This made me tired, and I concluded that I lived too far away to try to harmonize these contradictions and absurdities, and only mention them hoping that some one living there will take the trouble to correct them, and write a reliable history of the township, bearing in mind that the early history of Chesterfield also embraced a large portion of what is now Gorham, Franklin and Dover Townships.

The following is a list of those who settled within two miles of Master's Corners before 1850, grouped in such a manner, as to show where and when they settled. Those whose names appear more than once, having moved, as the Bortons, Masons, and others first settled in German, and Joseph Bates and John Fisher in Brady:

PRESENT LIMITS OF GERMAN

1834 - George Kibbler.
1836 - Bethuel, Joseph, Nathan, John, Job and Samuel Borton.
1839 - John, Josiah, Reuben and J.C. Mason and Michael Martzolf.

PRESENT LIMITS OF BRADY

1834 - Wm. Packard.
1835 - Walter Coleman, George and L.G. Ely and George Donutt.
1836 - James Hagerman and his son John J., and his sons, Abram, Peter William and James Hagerman.
1839 - John Clifton and John Fisher.
1840 - Asher Ely and his sons, Asher, William and O.S. Ely and Samuel Clifton and his son, Wm. Clifton.
1841 - John and Job Borton.
1843 - George Pifer.
1846 - Joseph Powell and George Marks.
1848 - R.G. Ely.

PRESENT LIMITS OF MILL CREEK

1835 - Theron Landon, Joseph and John Haines and George Berome.
1836 - Jacob Landis.
1843 - Christopher Spade.
1845 - John Bender and Samuel Shadle.
1846 - George McNabb.
1847 - Mr. Coleman and Obidiah Hartman.

A number of others came from 1844 to 1846 and Gilford Denman and George Hoover came in 1852.

SET OFF FROM GORHAM TO MILL CREEK

1835 - John Gillett, David Severence and his sons, Waldron and Alfred Severence.
1838 - Alanson Pike.
1839 - George McFarland.
1844 - John Jacoby.
1845 - Jacob Cox and his son, John Cox.
1846 - Martin Beilhartz.
1847 - Michael Martzolf.
1850 - Daniel Bear.
Hiram Haley came at a very early day, and Mr. Locker in 1854.

SET OFF TO FRANKLIN FROM MILL CREEK

1838 - John Ely.
1839 - Asher Ely and his sons, Asher, William and O.S. Ely.
1840 - Joseph Bates.
1844 - John Fisher, Bethuel Borton and Peter Hagerman.
1845 - Nathan Borton, P.R. Fisher, John, Josiah, Reuben and J.C. Mason, Johnny Arch and Ezekiel Masters.
1846 - Benjamin Persing and his son H.S. Persing, John McGowen, George Kibbler and David Carr.
1847 - William Ely.
1848 - John Harden, Gideon Long and Joshua Conaway.
1849 - Richard Rider and Harvey Miller.

THE OLD LIMITS OF FRANKLIN

1837 - Joseph Ely.

SET OFF FROM BRADY TO FRANKLIN

1832 - Joseph Bates and his sons, Truman, James, and Joseph Bates.
1834 - Bruce Packard.
1839 - Benjamin Borton and John Sparks.
1840 - Isaac Borton, Jehu Jones, P.S. VanOrtwick and his sons, Abram and John VanOrtwick and Peter Vandevere.
1845 - Nathan Oliver.
1848 - Obidiah Borton and Chockly Harlan. Thomas Heaton came about 1850, G.H. Baum and John Shaffer in 1853 and James Randles in 1854.

In this article I have corrected a number of mistakes in the old histories of the two counties and have established some very important facts; but I also may have made some mistakes, as it is about as hard to find an old settler who did not come here in 1835, or who will acknowledge that someone else came here before he did as it is for a horse buyer to find a horse over seven years old. But besides interviewing all of the old settlers, I have written between forty and fifty letters, including letters to Washingtion, the Indian Territory and Kansas, and have had the public records at Lansing and Adrian searched for information given in this and previous articles; so these articles may be considered as correct as it is possible for me to make them. I make this statement to show that the corrections I have made, are well founded and backed up by facts, and hope they may be taken in kindness and given their due consideration by my readers.

After the above was written I have seen an article by Jas. S. Riddle, which is a very important paper but his description of the formation of the township is incorrect as may be seen by referring to the map. He has made one or two slight mistakes which this article will correct.

CHAPTER VII

EARLY INDUSTRIES

As early as 1823, John Perkins settled at Brunersburg, and soon afterward erected there the first mill within the old limits of Williams County. In 1833 he and his family moved to Pulaski, and erected what some say was the first mill within the present limits of same county. This was a sawmill, but soon after building it they fixed two "nigger heads" in such a way as to grind wheat. But the Williams County History says that Samuel Holton built a mill on Fish Creek as early as 1830.

Worts & Bro. settled at Lockport in 1834, and soon afterward built the first sawmill within the old limits of Springfield Township.

"The first mill built at West Unity was a sawmill built by Rings & Baker," I am told in 1835 or '36, but the Brady Township History I quote from gives no date.

George Johnson settled on section 7, town 7 north, range 5 east, on Bean Creek, and in 1840 built a sawmill, and soon after put up a grist

mill which has always been known as "Johnson's Mill."

In a very early day, said some to have been as early as 1833 or '34, Mr. Chatfield erected a sawmill on the west bank of Bean Creek, just north of the Angola Road. He certainly had a mill there at a very early day, and carried on an extensive business for a number of years. This was one of the old landmarks and was known far and wide as "Chatfield's Mill." The mill has long since fallen into decay, but the race is still partially open, and extends through the western part of the Doriot farm.

The first gristmill within the present limits of Fulton County was built and operated by Asher Bird. In the spring of 1835 Asher Bird settled on the western part of fractional section 8, town 10 south, range 1 east, and the same summer he erected a log gristmill, on Mill Creek, which was at first in Lenawee County, Michigan, but afterwards in Lucas and finally in Fulton County, Ohio. The mill was built by Walter Coleman and stood on land now owned by Mr. Bird's son-in-law, Campbell Ely, now of Franklin Township. The mill was located just southeast of where Mr. Ely's house now stands and about twenty rods north of the old Fulton Line. It was two stories high beside the basement. The dam was nine feet high which gave sufficient fall, without any mill race, to turn an undershoot wheel which furnished all the power required to operate the mill. The mill contained two sets of burrs, or rather one set of small burrs for grinding corn, called in those days a "corn cracker" and one set of large burrs for grinding wheat, which would grind eight bushels of wheat per hour and make for the farmer from forty to forty-two pounds of good flour and from twelve to fourteen pounds of bran and middlings from each bushel of wheat as compared to the thirty-four and thirty-six pounds of flour and a few pounds of chopped up shorts that they receive at the present patent roller mills. Then the farmer gave one-tenth for toll and got flour from their own wheat, now they get flour from anybody's wheat and leave nearly one-fourth of the weight of their grist at the mill.

Mr. Bird operated this mill until his death. He died on the third Sunday in October, 1834, and was buried in the Asher Ely burying ground. After his death Mrs. Bird's brother William Stanbach, ran the mill four years, then N. Stanley, a brother-in-law, had charge of the mill for a year or two longer. In 1848 or '49 Mrs. Bird married Jacob Schoonover who operated the mill until he died. He passed away in February, 1854, he and Mrs. Schoonover dying within a day of each other, and were buried on the same day in the burying ground with Mr. Bird. After their death the mill stood idle until about 1856 when Levi Hittle sold the machinery and burrs. I could not learn just what became of the smaller burrs but it is thought that Mr. Parker bought them for his mill. The larger burrs were bought by parties from Michigan who took them to that state and after using them a few years there they were finally taken to California. The old mill stood on the original sight and fretted the water of Mill Creek until about 1858 or '59 when Samuel Shipman moved it to the southwest quarter of section 5, on the old Shipman farm, and fitted it up for a dwelling, where it is still standing old and dilapidated, the oldest building without a doubt in Northwestern Ohio. I give this detailed account of the Bird's Mill because I think without a doubt that it was the first grist mill ever operated within the present limits of Fulton County.

Now, coming within two miles of Master's Corners, the first mill we have any knowledge of, was a gristmill, owned and operated by Mrs. George Ely. It consisted of a large grater and a bowl, bought of the Indians. Mrs. Ely was the motive power, and ground or rather grated enough meal for many a meal. But laying all joking aside, the first mill near Master's Corners was a corn-cracker or corn gristmill, built by Walter Coleman, on section 34, town 8 north, range 4 east, on the old Coleman place, now owned by John Borton. The mill stood back in the fields, near the creek, and was run by ox power, and was the first mill in Brady Township.

As early as 1835, George Berome settled on the northwest corner of section 3, and in 1837 he erected a waterpower sawmill on Mill Creek, about a half mile north of where Hamer now stands, which no doubt was the first in Mill Creek Township. He also put in a corn-cracker and ground corn. This is a nucleus for early settlers, who were attracted thither by the advantage the mill gave them. Mrs. Berome died about 1838, and Mr. Berome about two years later, when the mill came into the possession of his brother-in-law, Ezra Beshtle, who ran it

until 1846, when Wil Shadle and John Bender purchased it, and they ran it for a good many years. It was rumored that some one threw quicksilver into the dam, which made it impossible to keep water from breaking through, and the mill was abandoned, and finally tumbled into ruin.

The next sawmill was a waterpower mill built by a Mr. Smith for George Kibbler, on section 6, on Mill Creek, just east of Nathan Borton's. Mr. Kibbler, came to German Township with his father in 1833 or '34, and moved on section 6, then of Mill Creek, but now of Franklin Township, in 1846. In 1848 he erected a sawmill; and in 1849 and '50 Joshua Conaway built for him a gristmill. This was the only genuine gristmill ever built on this territory. It was an overshot wheel, thirteen feet and eight inches in diameter, which turned two pair of burrs, did good work, and the mill was well patronized. Soon after this he built the first and only whiskey distillery ever built in this region, and perhaps the only one ever built in Fulton County. The sawmill was one of those old fashioned, upright affairs; and, so Sam Jones says, when the water was low the saw only made one trip a day - this is it went up one day and came down the next. Mr. Kibbler ran the mills until his death in 1865. The Gigax boys bought the place; fixed up the dam and race and ground a couple grists and then abandoned it, as they could not make the dam stand. Soon after, they sold off the machinery, and converted the grist mill and still house into barns, which were both burned in the fall of 1876. The old sawmill stood until it finally tumbled into ruins.

About 1854 Mr. Looker settled on the northeast corner of section 35 of Gorham, where, in 1855, he and John Jacoby built a turbine wheel sawmill. Part of the backwater was on land purchased of Benjamin Persing for that purpose. The mill stood just west of the road, near the bridge - the road forming part of the dam. This mill was run about ten years, when it was torn down, and the timbers used for a corn crib.

Thus we find that there were, at one time, three sawmills and two gristmills turned by Mill Creek, all of which are things of the long past. The first, and only steam sawmill was built by John Borton, on the hill, near the south side of section 35 of the Franklin Township survey, in 1856. It was at first an upright mill, but afterwards they put in circular saws, and added a lath and a shingle mill. It was burned down in 1879.

CANE MILLS

The first sorghum molasses made near the corners, was made about the year 1850. The cane was raised on section 12 of Franklin, on P.R. Fisher's farm, by Obediah Borton, and the juice was expressed by passing between two wooden rollers. The mill was made by Job Borton and located just west of where his house now stands, on section 34 of Brady. The juice was boiled down in a big pearl ash kettle that held about three barrels, and the molasses was as black as the kettle. This no doubt was the first cane raised in Franklin Township. The next was made by John Jacoby, who put up a mill in 1852, and still continues the business, on the most improved plan. About the same time as the above or some say before, John Borton started a sorghum mill in his old still house which he run to some extent for a number of years.

About 1855, John Mason put a mill in his old log house where they made molasses for fourteen or fifteen years; and about 1865 Joshua Conaway put up an extensive mill, where he made thousands of gallons of molasses. He ran the mill about six or seven years, when he sold his farm to Samuel Harley and the mill was abandoned.

About the same time as the above or perhaps a year or two later, Alvin Smith started a sorghum mill on his old place on section 7 of Franklin. This mill was operated a few years and then sold and taken out of the neighborhood.

In 1885, John Clifton put a cane mill in the building occupied by his cider mill where he now carries on the business on the most improved plans.

CIDER MILLS

The first cider mill near the corners was run by Chockley Harlan, and stood near the south side of section 35 of Franklin, on the hill just opposite John Borton's sawmill. Just when it was started I could not learn - some say as early as 1856.

The apples were ground by a wooden cylinder driven full of spikes, and run by horse power; and the juice was expressed by one of the old "beams and lever presses," known to our grand-

fathers. Mr. Harlan did not carry on very extensive business, and continued it only a few years.

John Clifton settled on section 34 of Brady, on the farm where he now lives, in 1839. In 1856 he built his present cider mill, for combined purpose of carding mill and still house. The carding machine was run by him only one year when he sold it to R.G. Ely, and the mint stills were operated until 1860, when he gave up the business, and converted the building into a cider mill, for which purpose he has used it ever since. Mr. Clifton has run the mill almost exclusively by steam, having had five different engines for that purpose, and used the "screw process" from the first. The mill did an extensive business at one time, running as high as four presses. Mr. Clifton bought large quantities of apples, which he manufactured into cider vinegar; and he says he has counted as high as sixty teams, whose owners were awaiting their turn to unload; and has made as high as 4,000 barrels of cider, and manufactured and sold as high as 500 barrels of vinegar in a single season. I estimate that he has made at least 75,000 barrels of cider for his customers, and has manufactured and sold nearly 10,000 barrels of vinegar since he first stared this mill. In 1877 he put in jelly pans, and has made large quantities of jelly, both for his customers and for sale. In 1884 he put in a patent process, by which all the work and pressing is done by steam, and the cider is strained through a coarse cloth instead of through straw as heretofore.

William Clifton came to Williams County with his father, Samual Clifton, in 1840, and settled on his old place on the south side of section 34 of Brady Township where, in 1875, he and Wm. Borton erected a large cider mill and vinegar house, and carried on an extensive business, both in cider for customers and in manufacturing and selling vinegar. In 1878 they put in jelly pans and manufactured, probably, even larger quantities of jelly than John Clifton did. In 1880 Mr. Clifton became involved, and Mr. Borton purchased the mill and moved it down to just north of the Grange Hall, where he carried on the business until 1885, when the mill and some 300 barrels of vinegar were consumed by fire. About 1881 Mr. Clifton sold his place and moved to Michigan and lives near Mt. Pleasant, Isabelle County of that state.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

The first blacksmith shop we have account of, was a log shop built by Asher Ely, in 1840. The shop stood on section 34, of Brady, just south of where Mr. Ritchey's barn now stands. Here Mr. Ely did general blacksmithing, besides making a great many cow bells, which he sold to the early settlers. After Mr. Ely died in 1849, it was run by R.G. Ely, in connection with his wagon shop for a short time when it was abandoned.

In 1846, Johny Arch settled on section 11, now of Franklin, on what is known as the Master's farm, and lived in a log house, built by whom I could not learn, on the sand hill, south of where John Hollington's orchard now stands. He built a log blacksmith shop just opposite his house, on land now owned by L.G. Ely, where he worked at the trade for a couple of years; and also burned several pits of charcoal. About 1848 he moved to section 1 of Franklin, and erected a log house and blacksmith shop, on the east 40 of what is now Benjamin Persing's farm. The shop stood about half way between where Mr. Persing's house and Michael Martzolf's house now stands. He worked at his trade in this shop until 1855 or '56, when he moved to Michigan and the shop was abandoned.

In 1848 John and Samuel Glime built the first blacksmith shop in Hamer, and ran it until 1855, when John Kosier came in possession of it and has conducted that business, in connection with his wagon and repair shop, ever since, with the exception of three years that he worked in West Unity.

George Stoner settled on the southeast corner of section 36, of Gorham, on land now owned by Mrs. Bushey, in March, 1852, and a couple of months later built a shop at the three corners, and ran it until 1867, when he moved to his farm west of Fayette. During the same year, 1852, Alfred Pettinger built a shop at the three corners, on the south side of section 1 of Franklin, at what was then the town of Trenton. The shop stood just opposite Mr. Crumrine's house, on land now owned by John Mason. He ran the business a few years only, and at the same time burned several pits of charcoal in the field east of the road. In after years Jonathan Cogle used the building for a wagon and repair shop for a year or two, and it now forms a part of J.C. Mason's sheds.

In 1854, Isaac Stoner built a shop on section 3, of Mill Creek, on the southwest corner of Gilford Denman's farm, and ran it until 1864, when David Kosier bought and has ran it ever since, excepting from 1868 to 1874. From 1868 to 1869 he and Alfred Shetler ran the shop in partnership, when Kosier sold out to Shetler, who run it until 1874, when Kosier again bought it, and still continues to work there.

In 1857 David Cease started a shop on section 2, of Franklin, on the bank of Mill Creek, just west of the jog in the road, at the three corners, north of Benjamin Persing's. He worked there some time and then abandoned it. In after years both the shop and old log house, that was built there in 1847 by Wm. Rodgers, were burned down.

About 1864 a Mr. Phelps started a shop on the northeast corner at Hamer, but he soon sold it to Elwood McFarland, and he sold it to Abe McFarland, who ran it for a couple of years, when it was abandoned. The shop had been built for a wagon shop in 1863 by John Kosier, and was also used as such by different persons until 1873.

There was a shop located opposite the Grange Hall, south of Master's Corners, but I did not find out when or by whom it was built, as it was operated but a short time. But three of these still stand and only two are now used as blacksmith shops. The rest have had their day.

WAGON AND CARRIAGE SHOPS

R.G. Ely came to Williams County in the spring of 1848, and settled on section 34, of Brady, on the farm now owned by Edward Ritchey. During the same year he built a large wagon and carriage shop, which stood about where Mr. Ritchey's barn now stands, and he soon after built a large frame dwelling house, which at that time was one of the finest in the county. In the spring of 1849 he was elected superintendent of the Sabbath School of the Presbyterian Church, being the first superintendent ever elected by that school; but before the summer ended his assistant had taken charge of the school. Mr. Ely manufactured coffins and carried on undertaking in connection with his wagon making, and in 1849 he built a hearse which was the first one in all this section of the country, which he used until 1851, when he sold his wagon making tools and undertaking business to George Marks.

In 1857 he purchased the carding machine from John Clifton and placed it in his old wagon shop, where he used it four or five years and then sold the cards, I think, to parties in West Unity. In 1866 John Clifton bought the old wagon shop and moved it away. About 1862 or '63, Mr. Ely moved to Stryker, where he ran a hotel a few years, and finally settled on his present farm, south of West Unity.

George Marks came to this country about 1846. He worked for R.G. Ely in his wagon shop until 1851, when he purchased the tools, the hearse and the undertaking business, and continued the business in Mr. Ely's shop. He married Catharine Ely and in 1854 they settled near the south side section 3, of Mill Creek, and the same year built the large wagon shop that still stands opposite David Kosier's blacksmith shop. Here he did a good business in wagon making, and also manufactured coffins and carried on the undertaking business. He ran the old hearse a number of years and then built a fine new one, which he used in connection with his other business until his death.

He died April 24, 1875, and was buried in the old M.E. Graveyard. After his death O.S. Ely purchased the hearse, but soon sold it and it was taken out of the neighborhood. After Mr. Marks death Jacob Marks worked for a year or two in the old shop; then moved to Hamer and carried on a repair shop five or six years, in the building formerly occupied by Silas Benson as a store room.

I am told that the Cogles ran a wagon-shop in or near Hamer, but could not locate it or give the year.

The other small shops I have given in connection with the blacksmith shops. All of these are things of the past and only show what monopoly and centralization has done to take such work from the many to build up the few, to drive all such work from the country to enlarge our centers of commerce.

SHOE SHOPS

As nearly as can be ascertained the first boots and shoes made within two miles of the corners, were made by Jacob Cox, who settled on section 36, now of Gorham, near Mill Creek, close to where Wm. Garrison now lives, in 1845. As he could not write he would record the

measures by cutting notches in the window sills.

The next, perhaps, was Martin Beilhartz, who settled on his farm in the spring of 1846, and followed his trade for a great many years, using a part of this house as a shop.

The next was Benjamin Persing, who settled on his present farm in the fall of 1846, who made shoes at his house and also worked some in Hardin's shop.

In 1848 John Hardin settled on the east side of section 2, now of Franklin, on land now owned by Thomas Moss, where he made shoes for two or three years, when he moved to the banks of Mill Creek, on land now owned by John Jacoby. There he erected the only shoe shop in the neighborhood. In 1873 he moved to Fayette, where he followed his occupation until his death. He died Nov. 14, 1881, at the good old age of seventy years, and was buried in the Presbyterian Graveyard near Masters' Corners.

The next was Joshua Conaway, who settled on the Herron farm in 1848, where he resided until 1855 when he moved to the farm now owned by Wm. McGowan. He left there about 1873. After moving several times, he finally settled in Spring Hill, where he still resides. He was a millwright, wheelwright and carpenter, plasterer, painter and mason, blacksmith, wagonmaker, shoemaker, tailor and farmer. Not as the old saying has it "Jack of all trades and master of none," but, strange to say, he was master of all.

STILL HOUSES AND DISTILLERIES

As early as 1836 the Bortons settled in what is now German Township and soon after started a mint still house, and the Masons also distilled mint and other oils there as early as 1839 or 1840. Nathan Borton perhaps ran the first mint still in the county. John Borton first settled on what is now the Wentz place in section 36, town 7 north, range 5 east in 1839, where he built a still house in 1840, being no doubt the first in the present township of Franklin. He settled on his present farm, on section 34, of Brady Township, in 1841. The same year he built a log mint house, or still house, which was the first erected near the corners, and no doubt the first in Brady Township. This building stood just south of where his new ban now stands, and was used by Mr. Borton for the purpose of distilling the oil of peppermint until 1852, when it was pulled down and a frame building erected in its place. This building was used for the same purpose until 1870, when his present still house was built, where Mr. Borton still carries on the business. He says that he has manufactured and sold from $500 to $1,500 worth of oil yearly; and I estimate that within the forty-five years that he has followed the business that he has received not less than $35,000 for this product alone.

The second still house within the two miles of the corners was built by Asher Ely, Sr., in 1844, but was used only two or three years when it was abandoned.

The next was a log still house built by Nathan Borton in 1846 or '47 on section 1. It stood just east of the road, on the bank of the south stream that runs through his place, where he manufactured a large quantity of oil and carried on the business for a good many years.

About the same time as the above John Mason, Sr., erected another log still house on section 1, which stood on the east side of the road, about forty rods south of what is now Newton Leonard's house. Here Mr. Mason distilled the oils from peppermint, spearmint, sassafras, fire or butter weed, and colt's tail or horse sorrel. Both of these still houses were abandoned "some twenty years ago," and have long since fallen into decay. These two no doubt were the first still houses in the old limits of Mill Creek and the present limits of Franklin Township.

The only whisky distillery near the corners was the one built by George Kibbler in 1852. It stood just south of his grist mill, and was connected with it by a passage way. The history of this still has already been given in the sketch of his grist mill.

In 1856 John Clifton erected his present cider mill for the combined purpose of a still house and carding mill. He used the building as a still house until 1860 when it was converted into a cider mill.

Obediah Borton settled on section 35, of what is now Franklin Township in 1848, and built a log house, which at first had no doors on the ground floor, but was entered by means of a ladder, through an opening into the loft. In 1861 he erected a log mint house, which stood in the corner of what is now Charlie Borton's orchard. He used it as a still house until 1865 when the place was purchased by Mrs. Hake, and the still was abandoned.

In 1868 Wm. Borton built his present frame still house, which stands northeast of his house, on the banks of the creek, on the south side of section 35 of Franklin, where he still carries on the business, being at present the largest manufactory of oil in Fulton County. In 1885 he manufactured and sold 173 pounds, which was quoted at $5 per pound.

In 1869, J.C. Mason purchased the old Mason school house and moved it into the woods, near to what we school boys used to call "the swamp," and now uses the building for a still house, where he distills various kinds of oil, which he uses in compounding his medicines.

ASHERIES

The first ashery that I find any account of, was built in 1848 by Abram VanOrtwick. It was built of logs and located on section 35, town 8 north, range 4 east, on land now owned by John Sparks. It stood near the spot where his stable now stands. Mr. VanOrtwick ran it a few years and then sold the old pearl ash kettle to Obediah Borton, which was afterwards used for boiling the first sorghum molasses made near the corners.

The next was an old log ashery built by Reuben Mason, at Trenton, in 1851, where he made black salts, and soon after he erected a frame house, where he converted the black salts into pearl ash. In 1853 or '54 he built a little frame pearl house, where the pearl ash was made into peals and finally to saleratus, of which he made large quantities, which was mostly sold at Toledo. The ashery was abandoned about 1865, and all that now remains of it is a pile of leached ashes. This old ashery was a favorite resort for the boys of those days, and could I tell of all the sports its old walls witnessed, they would make a volume and awaken memories of many now far away or passed to the silent shore.

The next was built by Theron Landon, just northeast of where Hamer now stands, in 1852 or '53, and was abandoned about 1863, and left to tumble into ruins. These asheries did a good business and brought to the pioneer many a dollar, for the ashes scraped up, from where the log heaps were burned, where acres of the very choicest timber had been piled up to be consumed. Even black walnut logs, four or five feet in diameter were rolled together and burned to be gotten rid of, which if standing today would almost buy the farms on which they stood. But as the country became cleared up the asheries were abandoned and are things of the long past.

STORES

The first store near the corners was kept by Jim Fitch, a half-breed Indian, at the old town of Edinburg. Fitch kept store here at a very early day, but I cannot find the exact date of its first starting. In after years he moved to the Coleman farm, now owned by John Borton, where he lived for a few years, and then went to parts unknown.

Mr. Chatfield settled on the north side of the Angola Road, just west of Bean Creek, in a very early day, and I am told that he had a store there as early as 1834, where he traded with the Indians; and that he carried on a general merchandise business there for a number of years; and also held the position of postmaster. This, no doubt, was the first store in what is now Franklin Township.

The first store in Lockport was built by a Mr. Hull, about the year 1837, and kept by him some six or seven years.

In 1837 or '38 a Mr. Haisting started a store on the northeast corner of the three corners just west of Darby's bridge, on the south side of section 32, then of York, but now of Franklin Township. It was kept a few years and then abandoned on account of the overflows of the creek, and I am told that they could row boats through whenever the creek was high.

In 1853 Hollington & Gates started a store just east of the bridge, at Johnson's Mill, which was run but a few years and abandoned.

Benjamin Borton opened a store in his old house in 1839 or '40 and kept it for some time, but he does not remember just how long. This was the first store within two miles of the corners, and stood on section 2, then of Brady but now of Franklin Township.

The next store was started by Reuben Mason in 1850 in his old house. In 1852 he laid out the village of Trenton, and built a store room, where he kept a store for about ten years. He was also postmaster for the post office of Blanc for eleven years.

The first store in Hamer and the first in Mill Creek Township was opened in 1852 by David Miller and Joseph Landis, who kept it about a

year, and then sold it to Theron Landon and Henry Haines. Haines died in 1854, and Mr. Landon continued the business until 1864, and also kept the post office and after Mr. Landon left Hamer, Mr. Warren and others carried on the merchantile business in his old store-room for some years.

In after years Silas Benson kept a store in Hamer for a short time and the grange store was located in the Landon store-room for a number of years, but at present is kept at their hall, north of Hamer. The Grangers also keep a supply at their hall, south of the Corners and at their hall near Wm. Garrison's.

The first post office in the township of Franklin was kept by Mr. Darby. The mail was carried on horse back from Defiance to Medina, Michigan. The Blanc post office was first located at the house of Jacob Jones, which stood on the south side of section 6, of Franklin, on the farm now owned by David Gunsaullus. Mr. Jones was postmaster some two or three years when about 1853 the office was removed to Mason's store. The mail was carried on horse back from Toledo to Angola, the first carrier being John Butler.

DOCTORS

The first doctor near the corners that we have any knowledge of, was a Mr. Smith who lived on the Kibbler farm. He came as early as 1846; was a carpenter by trade, and built Kibbler's sawmill. He got hold of a few recipes and commenced practicing. He remained three or four years after commencing to doctor, then departed to parts unknown.

The next was Simeon C. Brown, M.D., who settled in Hamer in 1854, and had a good practice for eleven years, when he moved to Pioneer, and from there to Michigan. He served one term as clerk of the Ohio house of representatives, and was an enthusiastic politician. He carried it to such an extent the year Vallandingham ran for governor, that he made a stump speech in the Baptist Church on the Sabbath before election. He now lives at Mt. Pleasant , Michigan.

The next was Dr. W. M. Dorland, brother to the Rev. Luke Dorland, who settled in Hamer in 1855. He stayed but two years when he removed to parts unknown.

Dr. Edward Cooper settled in Hamer in 1856; built a small office and lived in it all alone. He sold a medicine of which he was the patentee; and also kept on hand a small supply of candies and nuts. In 1879 he moved to Oscar Marvin's, where he died in 1880 at the good old age of eighty-four years. His body lies in an unmarked grave in the Presbyterian Cemetery.

Then we have a Dr. Schmidt, who lived on Benjamin Persing's farm in the house formerly occupied by Rev. Luke Dorland from 1860 to 1865, when he moved to Edgerton where he died.

Although out of our limits, he was so near by that I will have to give a space to old Dr. Wilson, who moved from Stryker to the David Gunsaulus place about 1867, where he stayed for a short time and then built a log house and office on the south side of fractional section 7, of Franklin on the east side of the road on land leased from Joseph Ely. Without advertising, his fame spread to such an extent as to bring him patients from every state in the Union. A hotel had to be erected for the accommodation of his patients, and a "bus" line was established from Archbold to the hotel. They even came from the city of New York to see the old wizard, or Indian Doctor as he was called, who lived in his little log house in the woods. The patients were given tickets when they arrived, and it was no uncommon thing to see fifteen to twenty waiting for their number to be called. The manner of his diagnosis was wonderful as he described his patients symptoms without asking a question, even better than they could themselves describe them. He moved to Archbold in '73 or '74, where he died shortly afterward. He was a wonderful man, a study, a mystery — seemingly reading the mind of his patients. Although he must have taken in thousands of dollars, he left his family in limited circumstances.

The only veterinary surgeon we ever had near the Corners is J.C. Mason, who has followed with considerable success for a number of years and also practiced medicine to a small extent, as did R.B. Mason, while he resided in this neighborhood.

MISCELLANEOUS

The only picture gallery, was an old daguerreotype gallery, owned and operated about two years by James Luthers. The gallery stood on section 2, just east of Mrs. Mann's, on land

now owned by Wm. Borton. I could not get the exact date, but it was sometime between 1850 and 1860. Mr. Luthers settled at Stryker in 1833, and resided there when I last heard of him, some three years ago. This was the only gallery ever located in Franklin Township.

Benjamin Borton had a nursery on his farm which he kept up for a number of years, and later John Borton started a nursery in the little lot just opposite his house which was operated, up to about 1860 or '61.

The only carding machine was the one already mentioned and was operated by John Clifton first and then by R.G. Ely, from 1856 till 1862.

The only brick kiln was put up just east of the Shadle sawmill in 1863, and was used only one summer.

Mr. Bender and Mr. Crumrine made violins and Mr. Crumrine made several drums.

Thus we find we have had ten blacksmith, three or four wagon and five shoe shops, four sawmills, two corn crackers and one gristmill, seven sorghum and three cider mills, one carding machine, one brick kiln, one picture gallery, four stores, two post offices, three asheries, one pearl house, one whiskey and eight mint stills, one nursery and three or four doctor's offices, within two miles of the Corners; and all that remains is two blacksmith shops, one cider and two sorghum mills, and two mint houses. Thus, as a country grows older, business is drawn to the common centers and the cities and towns absorb the country stores and work shops.

The country changes from a mixed community of farmers and merchants to almost exclusively agricultural, and the farmer depends almost entirely upon the towns and cities for their manufactured articles, paying the cost of shipping the farm products to them and also the return of their manufactured goods.

CHAPTER VIII

OUR FIRST SCHOOLS and THE TEACHERS WHO TAUGHT THEM

THE SCHOOLS OF MASTER' CORNERS

FIRST SCHOOLS IN FRANKLIN AND BRADY

The first school in the old limits of Brady and the present limits of Franklin, and perhaps the first in the present limits of Fulton County, was taught in Joseph Bates' old cabin, which stood on section 2, on what is now the Shillings farm. There was but one term taught here, the teacher being Samantha Crandall, afterwards Mrs. Isaac Reynolds. Some say this school was taught as early as the winter of 1835 or '36, but the summer of 1836 is more likely to be the proper date.

THE DARBY SCHOOL

The first school taught within the old limits of Franklin Township was in a small schoolhouse erected by S.B. Darby and a few of his neighbors on the east bank of Bean Creek in the summer of 1839. The following winter Mr. Darby taught the first school numbering twelve scholars. This was the first schoolhouse within the present limits of Franklin Township, and the first school in the old limits of the township. In in 1842 a new schoolhouse was built twenty-five rods west of the creek, and was used for a number of years for the combined purpose of schoolhouse and town house, but I did not learn who was the first teacher here.

THE AYERS SCHOOL

The first schoolhouse built within the old limits of Brady Township, was a log house that stood just opposite the Campbellite Church, on section 1, of Franklin, on land now owned by John Shilling. It was built in 1840, and was known as the Ayers schoolhouse. Miss Jane Brunbridge, from west of Montpelier, taught the first school. Geo. Ely was employed to teach the second school, but before the time arrived to begin the school he gave up the contract, and employed Benjamin Pickle to take his place. This schoolhouse was also used for church purposes for a number of years.

THE FIRST SCHOOL IN GORHAM

The first schoolhouse in the present limits of Gorham Township, was built in February, 1836. It was a log building, about 20X24, hewed both outside and in, with puncheon floor, and slabs on three sides, next to the wall, for seats, with a board in front for desks, and in front of these desks were benches for smaller scholars.

This schoolhouse was located on the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of section 21, town 9 south, range 1 east; or to make it plain to all it stood on the northeast corner of the four corners, one mile east of Fayette. The first directors were Gorham and Erastus Cottrell and Freeman Coffin. The first school commenced in May, 1836, and was taught by Lucinda Rogers, who commenced her term of school in Michigan and ended it in Ohio. In fact, she called school one morning in Michigan, and that same evening dismissed the same school in Ohio. The building was used for the combined purpose of schoolhouse, town house and church. It was used for school purposes for about fifteen years and remained standing until 1862. So says Messrs. N. Shaw and S. Cottrell, but Mr. Griffin says that he settled on this same corner in 1837, and had a hog pen standing on the ground afterwards occupied by the schoolhouse and that the schoolhouse was not built until the spring of 1838. If Mr. Griffin is correct the Sevrence schoolhouse may have been the first within the present limits of Gorham Township.

THE SEVRENCE SCHOOL

The first school within the old limits of Mill Creek Township was taught in a log building, known as the Sevrence schoolhouse, which stood on the south side of section 16, now of Gorham just west of where Henry Amsbaugh now resides. There were no directors and the school was carried on by subscription. The first teacher was Elizabeth Furman, now Mrs. Waldron Sevrence, who only taught two or three weeks and gave it up, and Antoinette Hart, afterwards Mrs. Hiram Opdyke, of Pulaski, was employed to finish the term, and her sister Melisendra Hart, now Mrs. L.M. Boothman, of Bryan, taught the second term.

There is a great diversity of opinion concerning the time when this school was commenced. Mrs. Boothman says, "The first school was taught in the summer of 1842," but Mrs. Jacoby says, "Miss Furman commenced the school about one year before she married," and the Williams County History says that she and Waldron Sevrence were married in 1839. Judge Ayers says, "The Baptists held a revival meeting in the Sevrence schoolhouse in the winter of 1837 or '38, and the following summer their first organization took place in this house, so perhaps the first school was taught in the summer of 1838. If this is so this was the first schoolhouse built in what was then Brady Township. This building was used for school purposes until about 1844, when what was known as the "Hank Amsbaugh" district was formed, which included a tract of land four miles square, in the southeast corner of the old limits of Mill Creek Township. In 1845 a frame schoolhouse was built on the northwest corner of section 35, which was painted red, and was known as the "red schoolhouse," which was used for a number of years for the combined purpose of school and town house. The first teacher was Miss Minerva Cottrell, the daughter of Asa Cottrell, and afterward the wife of Mr. George Acker. In 1850 this district was divided and soon after the schoolhouse was purchased by Mr. Bear and moved south a mile to the farm now owned by David Robison, and was used a number of years as a residence.

THE PIKE SCHOOL

In 1850, as has been stated, the Amsbaugh district was divided, and soon after this the Pike district was formed from the eastern half. A frame schoolhouse was built in 1852, by Seth Hamlin and his brother, which stood on the southeast corner of section 26, town 9 south, range 1 west, on land obtained from Alonson Pike. The first teacher was Abram Flickenger. This schoolhouse served its purpose until 1876 or '77, when the present brick structure was built in its place by Solomon Gutshaw. The new house was occupied first as a teacher by Allen Vance. A few years later the old schoolhouse was bought by John Jacoby and moved to his place and used as a wood house and kitchen.

THE ASHER ELY SCHOOL

The first district organized within two miles of "Master's Corners" was known as the "Asher Ely District." The house was built in 1845, on land obtained from Asher Ely, Sr., now owned by Edward Ritchey. It was erected out of hewn logs, and its floor, desk and seats or benches were all made of puncheon. The schoolhouse stood in the woods, some eighty rods from any road. The first directors were Asher Ely, Sr., Joseph Bates and John Hagerman. The first teacher was Augustus Porter. The early Methodists and Presbyterians used this as a

house of worship for a long time.

Several scholars one morning on their way to this school, in 1846, saw a large bear in the woods near the road, which gave them quite a scare, but it did not pursue their flying feet, and on their return from school, so did they fear to pass the place, that they waited at a neighbor's till after dark and then ran all of the way home.

It was here my two oldest brothers received their first schooling and my oldest brother, now Rev. J.E. Fisher, received his first punishment. He says it was on this wise: He was sitting with a number of little boys of his own size on the long bench in front of the desk, facing the open space in the center of the room, and a similar bench, full of little girls, on the opposite side. His cousin, Benton Fisher, now near Bryan, Ohio, pushed him out into the room. The teacher seeing him scrambling back to his seat, but not knowing how he came there, said, "Well, if you wish so much to see the girls you can have an opportunity," and sat him between two girls, who he says gave him all the room there was on the bench.

THE JOHN MASON SCHOOL

In 1846 the following territory was constructed into what was known as the John Mason School Sistrict: It included section 1 and fractional section 12 west, and parts of section 6 and fractional section 7 east, of Mill Creek Township (struck off from the Amsbaugh District); and fractional sections 25 and 26, and the north half of sections 35 and 36 of Brady Township, (from the Ayers District).

P.R. Fisher, Peter Vandevere and Bethuel Borton were the first directors. P.R. Fisher took the first enumeration and there were found to be sixty-two persons of school age within the limits of the district. The house was erected, in 1847, by John Mason, Sr., on land leased from him, at the three corners, on the south side of section 1, opposite where Frederick Crumrine now lives. The first teacher was Miss Catharine Radabaugh.

The house was used for school purposes until 1868. The following year J.C. Mason purchased it and converted it into a still-house in which he distills mint and other oils.

THE BATES DISTRICT

What was known as the Bates District, was organized in 1848. It comprised, as near as I can learn, sections 2 and 3, and fractional sections 10 and 11, of Mill Creek Township, (from the Amsbaugh District) and fractional sections 27 and 28, and sections 33 and 34 of Brady, (the old Asher Ely District). The schoolhouse was built in section 11, on Joseph Bates' farm, and stood where Jacob Schenck's barn now stands. The first teacher was James Hagerman. In 1850 only a small portion of this district was set off to Fulton County, which necessitated the moving of the schoolhouse. Accordingly in the fall of 1851, the building was put on runners, to which twenty yoke of oxen were hitched - 10 yoke to each runner - with which it was drawn down opposite John Fisher's house, and Miss Hattie Wilber taught two terms of school in the house while it stood here in the road, on the runners; and during the same time it was used, on the Sabbath day, as a house of worship by the Presbyterians. It was while the house stood here, that a Sabbath school scholar, Kate Fisher, now Mrs. Joseph Willett, of Bryan, Ohio, memorized during the week and recited at one hearing on the following Sabbath, one thousand and two hundred verses of scripture and hymns. In 1853 it was brought on down to the corners and placed on the northwest corner on land now owned by David Hershiser. Mr. Cutting B. Wiley was the first teacher here. Although the district contained scarcely two sections they had a full school, and the house was used for school purposes till 1869, when L. G. Ely bought it and converted it into a corn crib.

THE P. R. FISHER SCHOOL

In 1867 the Bates and Mason Districts were united, and a new schoolhouse was built in 1868, on land leased from P.R. Fisher. This now forms the Franklin School, or District No. 4, George Sparks being the first teacher in the new house. This district, including the old ones from which it was formed, has produced over forty teachers, five doctors, three lawyers, three merchants, two jewelers, two ministers, two professors, one editor, one portrait artist, one conductor, one telegraph operator and one commercial traveller. This is a record of which few country schools can boast.

The George Ely District was organized in 1852.

The first directors were Ralph Ely, John Borton and John R. Clifton.

The old Asher Ely schoolhouse was moved south to the road, and Miss Julia M. Linsley taught the first school. In 1862 O.S. Ely and H.W. Crum, built the present schoolhouse and the first person to occupy it as teacher was Levi Brown.

HAMER SCHOOL

Through the influence of Christopher Spade and a few others, in 1851 or '52, the Hamer District was organized out of a portion of the old Bates District and a portion of what was then known as the Clay District. The first directors were William Masters, E.C. Denman and C. Spade. In 1852 a schoolhouse was built by Thomas McGowen and Robert Masters and Miss Hannah Masters taught the first school. In 1877 the schoolhouse gave place to the present brick structure, built by Henry Clay. Lauren V. Crum taught the first school in the new house.

SELECT SCHOOL

The first select school was taught by Rev. Luke Dorland, who settled on what is now a part of Benjamin Persing's farm, in 1855. The following summer he opened a school in the Presbyterian Church, which he conducted three or four years. In this school the young people of the day received their academic education, some coming twenty and twenty-five miles to receive the benefits of its training. Rev. Dorland, in the meantime, was pastor of the Presbyterian Church. He left in 1859 or '60, and is now the president of Scotia Female Seminary for the Freedmen, located at Concord, North Carolina.

Thus I have given to the reader a brief sketch of the formation and beginning of our public schools.

CHAPTER IX

THE CHURCHES OF MASTERS' CORNERS

EARLY METHODISM

From "Crumbs From My Saddle Bags," by Rev. E.C. Gavitt, we learn that John and Charles Wesley arrived at Savannah, Georgia, in 1735, and that soon after this they established at that place the first Sunday School in America, which in fact was the first Sunday School in the world; as this school was started nearly fifty years previous to the one first commenced by Robert Raikes at Glouchester, England, in 1784.

The first local preacher of the Methodist Church, in America, was Philip Embury, who came to New York City in 1760. In 1765 he formed the first class and established the first Methodist Church in the new world, which consisted of himself, wife, and Barbary Heck. The first Methodist conference in America convened at Philadelphia in June, 1773. Methodism was first introduced into Ohio in 1791, and in 1798 Ohio was attached to a number of circuits in Pennsylvania, and formed into a conference containing three hundred and fifty members which was presided over by Amos G. Thompson, and Wm. McLenahan was missionary for Ohio. The Western Conference was formed in 1802, and the Ohio Conference was constituted at Chillicothe in 1812, which contained Ohio and Kentucky, nearly all of Indiana and West Virginia, and part of Pennsylvania. Methodism was first introduced in Michigan by Joseph Sawyers and William Case, who were sent to Detroit by the New York and the Genesee conference in 1809.

"On the evening of April 5, 1819, in the Forsyth Street Church, New York, the Missionary and Bible Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed, and the Mission among the Wyandots at Upper Sandusky, was the first established by that Society west of the Allegheny Mountains." Moses Hinkle was the first white missionary sent to this Mission to assist Steward, a colored preacher who had then been laboring with the Wyandots for over three years and had made several conversions among this aboriginal nation.

The Mission at Defiance was established soon after this but I could not learn the exact date.

J.B. Finley says that he was appointed presiding elder for the Lebanon District in 1819, which included Northern Ohio and all of Michigan. This same year he sent P.B. Morey to Detroit Circuit, which included all of the territory north of Maumee City. He succeeded Rev. Hecock, of Upper Canada, who had preached for two years along the shores of the lake. In the fall of 1820 Elder Finley held the first quarterly meeting at Maumee which he says was the first ever held on the Maumee River. This year Rev. Kent was sent to the Detroit Circuit

and Rev. Morey was sent back again in 1821 as a traveling minister. Then there is a lapse of four years when we resume the history as ascertained from Rev. E.C. Gavitt's book.

The first class and the first Methodist Church in what is now Northwestern Ohio was formed at Tremainsville, now part of Toledo, in 1825, and in 1834 there was built at this place the first Methodist Church, which was the first church erected by any denomination in what is now Northwestern Ohio. The Detroit District, of the Ohio Conference, was constituted in 1825, and contained Detroit Station and Detroit Circuit, in Michigan, and the Missions of Defiance and Upper Sandusky in Ohio.

The first presiding elder was William Simmons. John A. Boughman and Solomon Manier had charge of the Detroit Circuit, and Elias Pattee of the Defiance Mission. The Monroe Circuit was formed in 1826 and contained the southern portion of Michigan and all of Ohio north of the Maumee. Zarah Costin was the presiding elder from 1826 to 1830, and Curtis Goddard from 1830 to 1834. The preachers were: in 1826, John A. Boughman; 1827 and '28, George W. Walker; 1829, Jacob Hill: 1830 and '31, James W. Finley; 1832, Elnathan C. Gavitt; 1833, Elijah H. Pilcher and William Sprague, and in 1834 William Sprague and S.F. Southard.

The Maumee District was formed in 1834 with Leonard B. Gurley as presiding elder for 1834 and 1835. In 1836 the Michigan Conference was formed with John James as presiding elder for the Maumee District from 1836 to 1840. In 1840 the North Ohio Conference was formed with Wesley Brock as presiding elder from 1840 to 1844, John F. Kellam from 1844 to 1845. This brings us up to 1845, in which year the Masters' Society of the M.E. Church, whose church edifice was afterwards located at Masters' Corners, was formed, the history of which will be given farther on.

The following table gives the names and the time of their appointment of all the presiding elders who had charge of the territory now included in Williams and Fulton Counties from the year 1825 up to 1845, also the number of years they served while this territory was included in their district; and of all the preachers whose circuit extended over the territory now occupied by the Fayette and Masters' charge from 1825 up to 1834:

PRESIDING ELDERS	APPOINTED	YEARS SERVED
William Simmons	1825	1
Zarah Costin	1826	4
Curtis Goddard	1830	4
Leonard B. Gurley	1834	2
John James	1836	4
Wesley Brock	1840	4
John Kellam	1844	
PREACHER		
John A. Boughman and Samuel Manier	1825	1
John A. Boughman	1826	1
George W. Walker	1827	2
Jacob Hill	1829	1
James W. Finley	1830	2
Elnathan C. Gavitt	1832	1
Elijah H. Pilcher and William Sprague	1833	1
Wm. Sprague and S.F. Southard	1834	

This table, taken in connection with the tables given farther on, in the history of the M.E. Church of Masters' Corners, will give all the presiding elders who had charge of the territory occupied by the members of said church from 1825 down to the present, and of all the preachers, in whose circuit this territory belonged, for the same years. It is not known whether any of the above named itinerants ever preached in this immediate neighborhood or not, but it is probable that the five or six last named ministers held services in the part of what is now Northwestern Ohio.

MASTERS' SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Perhaps the first preaching within the present limits of Williams and Fulton Counties was done by Elder Garitt, formerly of Wauseon, but now of Toledo, O. I was told by him that he preached throughout all this part of the country, when this was but a howling wilderness; when the streams were destitute of bridges, and the only roads were the Indian trails. The circuit extended from Detroit to Ft. Wayne; and even by preaching once every week-day and three times on Sundays, it took him twenty-three days to reach all the points of holding services. This was accomplished on a salary of $125 a year. I have

forgotten in what year this took place, but it must have been in the thirties as Toledo was then a town of only a few shanties. From the reading of his book, which I have mentioned, I judge that it must have been in 1832.

I have in my possession a letter from B.F. Southworth, of Defiance, O., which says: "I came to Defiance when a very small boy, in 1836, and have been a member of the M.E. Church since my boyhood. The first official knowledge I have of Defiance Mission or Circuit was in 1832, but from conversation with some of the first settlers, I am assured that a log church was built at Defiance in 1825, and it was still standing and used as a parsonage for years after I came to the place. I have my information as to the time the church was built, from men who helped build it. At one time it was thought desirable to write up a brief history of this church and Rev. D.G. Strong, I think, undertook the work and I was requested to aid him. I never saw the work and do not know if he ever completed it.

From 1834 to 1840 the Defiance Circuit or Mission extended down the Maumee River about thirty miles, up the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers each twenty-five miles, and the same distance in a northerly direction. I remember that meetings were held at LaFayette in that direction, so that the work having Defiance for a common center had a radius of twenty-five miles or more. For a long time after I came to the place there was a preacher in charge, and an assistant preacher. It was what was called a four week work. That is we had preaching once in two weeks, but by the same preacher only once in four weeks.

From the book in which the minutes of the Quarterly Conference was kept, I find that in 1832 and '33 G.R. Jones was presiding elder, in 1834 H.O. Sheldon was presiding elder, and the minutes of the first Quarterly Conference of 1834 show that Rev. Sheldon was succeeded by L.B. Guley, who served two years. The first Quarterly Conference of 1836 shows John James was presiding elder, who served until the close of 1840.

The preachers for 1832 and 1833 were Wm. Sprague and Nathan L. Thomas and for 1834 J. Martin and John W. Cooley, but the first Quarterly Conference of this same year (1834) shows that James B. Austin and Alonson Flemming were on the work. The minutes of the first Quarterly Conference of 1835 gives P. Sharp and W. Brock; that of 1836, McKendree Tharp and Austin Coleman; of 1837, S.C. Parker and Adam Minnis; of 1838, S.C. Parker and R.H. Chubb, and the first Quarterly Conferences of 1839 and 1840 gives J.S. Saxby and W.H. Collins as the ministers.

There is some discrepancy in comparing this list with the one I have already given for the Monroe District, but that of the presiding elders can be accounted for by changes in the District, and Wm. Sprague may have been in Defiance during 1832 and the greater part of 1833, and then went to Monroe in the fall of that year. As there are two set of preachers given at Defiance for 1834, the one for the year and the other coming in the fall, I think this has been the case. But Mr. Gavitt says that the first church in Northwestern Ohio was built at Toledo in 1834, and this letter says that a church was built at Defiance as early as 1825. Which is mistaken I know not - I give both.

A letter from W.H. Scholes, pastor of the Bryan M.E. Church, says "As early as 1840 Beaver Creek and Pulaski Mission was formed which included all of what was then Williams County, excepting the eastern portion of what is now Defiance County, one appointment in Indiana and one in Lucus County - now Fulton County." As Masters' Corners was then in Williams County it was included in this mission.
"Bryan remained the center of this Circuit or Mission until 1860 when it became a station. The preachers for this Mission were: 1840-42, Zara Norton and Orin Hatch; 1842-43, Simeon H. Alderman; 1843-44, John L. Ferris and Chester Coleman; 1844-45, W.W. Winter and Samuel Mowers; 1845-46, Wm. Boggs and R.H. Wilson; 1846-47, Alonson Foster and H.K. Baines; 1847-48, John Burgess and Samuel Fairchild; 1848-49, Henry Chapman and A.H. Walter; 1849-50, Benjamin Herbert and J.S. Cutler." This year the Masters' Society became part of a new circuit. A slight difference occurs between the above names and those given by Mr. Masters for the same years, which I give farther on.

In those early days whenever three or four of the Methodist faith settled near each other, they were immediately organized into a class and a class leader appointed. There were classes formed near the corners as early as 1836 or 1838. Among the first class leaders were Henry

and John Lutes, James and Lowell Smith, and Thomas and James Shorthill. The early meetings were held at the cabins of John J. Hagerman and John McLaughlin until 1840, after which they were held for a number of years in the Ayers school house. Mr. Hagerman claims to have preached the first sermon within the present limits of Williams County, but this is not correct as Rev. Prettyman of Springfield Township, preached a funeral sermon before Mr. Hagerman came to the county. But it is probable that John J. Hagerman preached the first sermon within the present limits of Brady Township. Among the early preachers, and perhaps the first was Wesley Brock. Rev. Thorp, Austin Coleman and his brother and Rev. Parker were all here before 1845. Elder James was perhaps the first presiding elder.

The following table gives the names of the preachers who had charge of this territory from 1834 up till 1844:

NAME	APPOINTED	YEARS SERVED
James B. Austin and Alonson Flemming	1834	1
P. Sharp and W. Brock	1835	1
McKendree Tharp and Austin Coleman	1836	1
S.C. Parker and Adam Minnis	1837	1
S.C. Parker and R.H. Chubb	1838	1
J.S. Saxby and W.H. Collins	1839	1
Zara Norton and Orin Hatch	1840	2
Simeon H. Alderman	1842	1
John L. Ferris and Chester Coleman	1843	1
W.W. Winters and Samuel Mowers	1844	1

This is all the information I could obtain concerning this church prior to 1845, in which year Hon. Ezekiel Masters, now of Pioneer, came to the "corners" and soon after took charge of the church, and I am indebted to him for the history of the church from that time up till 1870, in which year he moved away. He says: The M.E. Church had an Organization Circuit long before I came to the corners, which was April 27, 1845. The Circuit at that time had nearly forty classes - a preaching place at each class. There were about twenty local preachers, and two Circuit preachers who were sent out by the Conference, who preached every day through the week and three times on Sunday and at night during the long nights of the fall, winter and spring. The Circuit embraced Williams County, a part of Defiance and Lucas Counties, and a few appointments in Indiana, and was known as the Bryan Circuit. The annual conference was held in September, and the following table gives the names of the presiding elders, the time they were appointed and the number of years they served, from 1845 to the present:

NAMES	APPOINTED	YEARS SERVED
Thomas Barkdull	1845	4
George Breckenridge	1849	2
William C. Pierce	1851	4
David Gray	1855	4
Joseph Ayers	1859	4
E.C. Gavitt	1863	1
Samuel Lynch	1864	3
T.H. Wilson	1867	4
Leroy A. Belt	1871	4
Park S. Donelson	1875	4
Wesley G. Waters	1879	4
E.D. Whitlock	1883	

Rev. Whitlock being at present the presiding elder.

The following table will show the names of preachers, the year they came and the number of years they served, from 1845 down to the present. William Winters and Samuel Mowers were on the circuit when I came, after that they were as follows:

NAMES	APPONTED	YEARS SERVED
William Boggs and T. Wilson	1845	1
Alonson Faeter and H.K. Bain	1846	1
John Burgess and Samuel Fairchild	1847	1
H.O. Chapman and Samuel Walters	1848	1
Benjamin Herbert and John S. Cutler	1849	1
David W. Ocker and John A. Shannon	1850	1
David W. Ocker and Rev. Erguehart	1851	1
James Evans and		

(table continued)

James Wilcox	1852	1
Ebenezer Lindsley and Andrew Butt	1853	1
Ebenezer Lindsley and Martin Perkey	1854	1
William Thacher	1855	1
Abram Poe	1856	1
Samuel L. Roberts and A. Butt	1857	1
Samuel L. Roberts and Moses B. Hibbard	1858	1
Isaiah Henderson and J.R. Colgan	1859	1
Isaiah Henderson and Ambrose Hollington	1860	1
Thomas N. Barkdull	1861	2
Rev. VanGundy	1863	1
J.R. Colgan	1864	2
Ambrose Hollington	1866	1
Jacob Fegtley	1867	2
John Poucher	1868	2
Austin Coleman	1870	1
J.R. Colgan	1871	2
B.L. Brown	1873	2
John Poucher	1875	2
V. Staley	1877	*9
J.C. Orcutt	1877	*3
L.E. Prentiss	1878	2
Jesse Carr	1880	2
W.A. Brown	1882	2
S. Lindsey	1883	1
T.W. Brake	1885	

* months

(I have supplied the names from the record of the Quarterly Conference of those who were here from 1870 until the present. - The Author.)

"When I came the appointments were at the old Asher Ely schoolhouse and at John J. Hagerman's house. The class book had fifty names on it, of persons who were scattered over a territory over six miles square. John McLaughlin was class leader, but never came. I often went to prayer and class meeting, in said schoolhouse on Sunday and met - besides myself and wife - Sarah Oliver only. At the first Quarterly Conference after I came I was elected steward and class leader. I immediately established Sunday School, prayer and class meetings, and paid for enough Sunday School Advocates to send one copy tri-weekly to each family for the first year. We cut off all dead-weight, after trying to save them. This for a while made our number small, but we had faith that God's blessing would rest upon us, and if all churches would in love, strictly enforce the rules of government, they would do much more good. In September, 1846, John J. Hagerman departed this life, being the first local preacher to pass away, and the same year Joseph Powell came. The meeting was held at the Asher Ely schoolhouse until 1847, when a subscription was taken to have preaching at West Unity, at my house, at Amsbaugh's and at Alvord's, now Alvordton. The subscription to be paid, provided the Conference would give Sunday preaching at West Unity at 10 A.M., at Masters' Corners at half past 12, at Amsbaugh's at 3 P.M. and at Alvord's at 5 P.M. during the long days and at night during the short days of winter. There has been Sunday preaching at Masters' Corners ever since. In 1848 the Bates schoolhouse was built, and the Methodists and Presbyterians held their meetings there.

In the latter part of 1848 an exhorter, Charles Wheeler, and myself visited all the members of the church, and those who did not belong to any church. We talked and prayed with them and told them we were going to have watch meeting and commence a protracted effort, and urged all who would to come. The Friday preceding the New Year we observed as a day of fasting and prayer. At the watch meeting in Bates schoolhouse that saw the old year of 1848 go out and the new year of 1849 commence, there started a revival that lasted over four years and at nearly every meeting there were one or more conversions and additions to the church. We had service at my house all winter - prayer and speaking meeting, and other meetings were held in the schoolhouse. The people came five and six miles, with ox teams, through bitter cold weather to attend these services. Previous to this there were no officers in the church except myself, and I was Steward, Recording Steward and District Steward until I left for Pioneer; also Class Leader and Sunday School Superintendent nearly all the time.

In April, 1847, we commenced taking subscriptions to build a house of worship. The trustees were Alonson Pike, Michael Amsbaugh, Nathan Oliver, Lewis Newcomer, Peter Hagerman, Benjamin Hagerman and Ezekiel Masters; and the building committee was composed of A. Pike, L. Newcomer and E. Masters. Lewis Newcomer took the contract for $630, but claimed that he lost

money on it. J.H. Fisher and I gave the timber and I drew it to the grounds and also gave and delivered the foundation stones free of charge, and furnished all of the poplar lumber, delivered, for $6 per thousand feet. This was at least the second if not the first M.E. Church built in the limits of Williams County, and the first M.E. Church and no doubt the first church of any denomination ever built in the present limits of Fulton County. It was dedicated on Saturday, December 3, 1849. Presiding Elder George W. Breckenridge preached the dedicatory sermon from the words of our blessed Savior to Peter -"Lovest Thou Me." It was a great sermon by a grand and good man.

I can count over four hundred that have been converted through the labor of the preachers, and officials and lay members of the M.E. Church known as the Masters Society, and only a small percent have gone back to the services of sin. The number of members at one time required four class leaders. Many have died and many more have moved away, leaving the present little band.

I write this lying on my back and holding the pen in one hand and moving it with the other. There may possibly be a little mistake in some of the dates, but I think there is none. I have aimed to be correct in all, although it is written from memory and runs through forty years time.

E. MASTERS

I regret that I can not give the names of all the early members of this church, but I can not find the records or anyone who can furnish the names. Among the most prominent of the members were John J. Hagerman, George Donutt, Lewis Newcomer, John McLaughlin and Alonson Pike and wife. Later the most prominent were, Ezekiel Masters and wife, Joseph Powell and wife, Sarah Oliver, Deletha Hall, Cornelius Powers and wife, Wm. Thompson, E. Lyons, Henry Smith and wife, John Shafer and wife, George Hoover, Nathan Oliver, Frederick Crumrine and wife, and Samuel Borton and wife. And more recently the leading members have been, O.S. Ely and wife, John Shilling and wife, Elwood Tule and wife, and others which I have not the space to mention.

During the war politics ran so high that John Imes - a local preacher - and his wife, Norris Palmer and wife, Levi Ely, and a number of other members pulled off and organized themselves into the Christian Union Association and soon after built the Pleasant Hill Church, located east of Powers' Corners, on the banks of Mill Creek.

In the spring of 1875 the old church was pulled down and the next summer the present beautiful brick edifice was erected in its place, at the cost of $3,500. The building committee was O.S. Ely, Levi Kump and John Shilling; William Gill, of West Unity, was the architect and contractor. The church was dedicated September 12, 1875, Leroy A. Belt, presiding elder, conducting the services. It is at present by far the best country church edifice in the county. The church continued very prosperous until five or six years ago when it began to decline and at present there are not over forty or forty-five members in good and regular standing.

THE MILL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

I learn from old settlers that the first Baptist minister who visited this part of the state, was Rev. Lewis, who came in 1837. The following winter he held a revival effort, at which time over fifty came out on the side of the Lord. I am told that the first Baptist organization was constituted in 1838, at the old log schoolhouse near Sevrence's but who joined or what the association was called I could not learn.

Now from the church book of the Baptist Church, which was kindly lent me by Leander Buxton, I obtained the following historical facts. The old church book of the Baptist Church has been so defaced that it is impossible to give a connected history of this church. The first entry on its pages is this:

"Jan. 15, 1840
The Church Book of Freedom and Clinton Church.
Samuel Knapp, Clerk."

Then we find two leaves missing after which we find a copy of the Covenant, Articles of Faith and Church Rules. It appears that this record at first belonged to the Freedom and Clinton Church, but where this church was located I could not learn, and at the time of organization the church book was transferred to the Mill Creek Church. By comparing the writing I infer

that a number of the original members at first belonged to that church and were dismissed to constitute this. After the Articles of Covenant I find the following which I give in a slightly abridged form:

Mill Creek, May 26, 1841.

"According to previous appointment, Elder B.C. Lewis and F. Smith, missionaries, and Alfred H. Murrey, licentiate, from Northwest Church, met in council with the brethren of Mill Creek and organized by appointing Brother Lewis, moderator, and Brother Smith, clerk, after which the council withdrew and after due consideration they agreed that the location, spiritual condition, and numbers were such as to justify their being associated in church capacity. They therefore agreed to proceed as follows: Brother Smith preached on the occasion, Brother Lewis gave the charge, and Brother Smith the hand of fellowship." The names of the original members were not given, but Daniel and Esther Sevrence and Abner and Claracy Ayers, who were received by letter, appears to have been the first members.

On May 9, 1841, Elizabeth Coleman and Alfred, Waldron and Elizabeth Sevrence were received by baptism.

May 14, 1841, Alexander VanCleve, Claricy Manly, Della Haines and Joel Dow were received by letter, and Mary Dow, Lydia Snider and Joseph and Susan Ely were received by baptism; and May 25, 1841, Elizabeth Ely was received by baptism. The above were the names of the members at the time of organization, May 26, 1841. The same year Sephrona Darby, Asher and Catharine Bird, Rosana VanCleve, Robert and Patience Adams, Daniel and Phebe Axtell and Samuel Darby were received by baptism.

Mill Creek Church met September 11, 1841, and elected Alexander B. VanCleve clerk, and Abner Ayers and Joseph Ely to serve as deacons. The same day messengers were appointed to the Maumee Association, with the request for this church to join with the same. In 1842 Elder Smith appears as the preacher, and in the same year the following persons joined: Edward and Sarah Otis, Wm. Verner, P.S. VanOrtwick and wife, and Mr. and Mrs. John VanOrtwick.

In the entry of June 8, I find the following: "Also the meeting by some interchange of opinion in regard to the support of the Gospel agrees to support Brother A. Price to preach once a month for $50 to be paid to him in money or produce delivered at some convenient place." On the third Sabbath of October 1843, Rev. Price preached his farewell sermon. We find by the record that Asher Bird died the same day, he being the first member of this church to pass away.

March 20, 1844, a committee of this church met with Freedom and Clinton Church to ordain Aaron A. Price who was retained as their minister until September of this same year. In August, Elizabeth Sevrence and Maria Darby were baptised by brother John Knapp, and October 26, this church voted to pay Brother Price $20 for his services as preacher.

The year 1845 seems to have been a prosperous one, as Elder F. and Martha Smith, Elizabeth Coleman, Henry, Mary and Mary Ann Flowers, Jehu Jones and wife, and Warren McClutcheon and wife were received in church fellowship. Mrs. Agnes VanOrtwick departed this life, April 19, of this year. Elder Smith was the preacher for this year and the first six months of 1846. There is no record from June 13, 1846, to June 12, 1847. In 1847 we find that there were meetings held at Bird's and McClutcheon's schoolhouses, and at D. Axtell's and S.B. Darby's, but there is no account of any preachers being present. There were four accessions this year, Jonathan Rogers and his wife, Martha Lewis and Maria Wolverton. F. Smith again appears as moderator in 1848, but there is no account given of any admissions to the church.

In 1849 Joshua and Jane Conaway, Richard and Nancy Rider, Delila Miller, John Stubbs and Rhoda Wing were admitted to church fellowship. In March, Elder Smith was dismissed, but F. Smith acts as moderator in June.

In 1850, a large number joined and Elder Smith was again the minister. This year they purchased a church library, also Hosea Herrendon was licensed to preach, Joshua Conaway, Joseph Ely and John Schoonover were appointed a building committee, and a lot was purchased of Harvey Miller, on the side of section 1, town 10 south, range 1 west. This year Rebecca and Claricy VanOrtwick, John McGowen and wife, Lorenzo and Mary Davis, John Paxton, Samuel Snider and wife, Hosea Herrendon and wife, and Elizabeth McGowen connected themselves with this church.

These are the names of all who joined up till 1851 and I have not the space to give them any farther. Brother F. Smith continued to be their

minister up to 1854, at which the record I had for reference closed. The following table shows the number of admissions, dismissions and deaths, by year, up to that date and the number of members belonged to the close of each year.

Years	Recd	Dis	Died	Members
1841	27	1	-	26
1842	9	2	-	33
1843	-	1	1	31
1844	4	1	-	34
1845	10	7	1	36
1846	-	2	-	34
1847	6	4	-	36
1848	-	2	-	34
1849	7	-	-	41
1850	15	2	1	53
1851	3	3	-	53
1852	4	4	-	53
1853	1	5	2	47
1854	5	2	3	47

In 1852 they commenced the erection of a church on the land obtained from Harvey Miller, just opposite P.R. Fisher's house, which was not completed until 1855, but I am told that the dedicatory services were performed in 1853. Joshua Conaway was contractor but I could not learn the amount he received for the contract. The church was very prosperous up till the close of the war, when it began to go down, and in 1872 and '73 Ann Eliza Smith was frequently the only person out at their meeting. They dismissed her for communing with the Methodist and then there were many times when no one came. Many a time their preacher, Rev. Briggs came all the way from Fayette and would not even find the house opened. He would wait awhile then, if it was cold, go over to P.R. Fisher's and warm and then turn around and go back home, not a soul having come to the church but himself.

In 1874 Deacon Ely and Elder Prentice undertook to move the church to Fayette and failed. But in the following year Dr. Runnion and Joshua Conaway moved it to its present location on the south side of section 2, town 10 south, range 1 east, at a cost of $485, and in the fall of 1875 it was rededicated, Rev. Eddy, of Wauseon preaching the dedicatory sermon. The church since the removal has been very prosperous, and I am told that they have built up a fine congregation.

THE MT. SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As early as 1839 or 1840 there were some twelve or fifteen Presbyterians living near the corners, but they failed to form an organization and the Baptists came in and persuaded all but Asher Ely, Sr., and his wife to join that body. For this reason the Presbyterians were a few years behind the other churches in accomplishing an organization in this neighborhood. From their church record and from members I have obtained the following history:

The Old School Presbyterians, of Brady and Mill Creek, met at Asher Ely's, Sr., Saturday, June 12th, 1847, and sent an invitation to Rev. Philip Condit, of the Maumee Presbytery, to come and organize them into a church. Accordingly Rev. Condit came on September 2d, but too late to transact any business. So the next day, Friday, September 3d, they met at Asher Ely's, Sr., and after Rev. Condit had preached a sermon, they held an election and Philip R. Fisher and Cyrus R. Axtell were chosen ruling elders. The following day, Saturday, September 4th, at the same place, the following persons organized themselves into a church: Asher Ely, Sr. and Catharine Ely, his wife, Cyrus R. Axtell and Eunice Axtell, his wife, P.R. Fisher and Mary Fisher, his wife, Mary Futha, Elizabeth Beerbower, Esther Parker and Lena Pickle. After this Rev. Condit preached from Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" After the sermon the elders were installed and ordained, and the church named "The Mt. Salem Presbyterian Church." This was the first Presbyterian Church organized northwest of the Maumee. The next day session met and Mary Jane Parker was baptised, and she and Mrs. Joseph Ely were received on examination, and Joseph Ely and Benjamin Persing and Sarah Persing, his wife, were received by letter. Cyrus R. Axtell was elected clerk, which office he held for over twenty-nine years. The following fall Mr. Axtell walked to Findlay, a distance of eighty miles, to attend Presbytery, and had Rev. John M. Crabbs sent out as a missionary. Rev. Crabbs remained as minister until 1855, when he was superseded by Rev. Luke Dorland, who remained until 1859. The pulpit was vacant during 1860 and Rev. J.P. Stockton supplied it three months during 1861. Rev. Samuel Hughes came in 1861 or 1862, and remained until 1865, in which year Rev. J.P. Stockton returned and has filled the

pulpit ever since except during 1875 and 1876, in which years Rev. J.E. Vance was pastor of this church in connection with the church at Fayette. In 1848 John Fisher and wife, Hannah Masters and Belinda Carmichael joined the church. The first infant baptized was Mary Jane, daughter of P.R. and Mary Fisher. The ordinance was administered by Rev. Crabbs February 7th. This same day John Fisher and Joseph Ely were elected deacons. In 1849 R.G. Ely was elected the first Sunday School superintendent, and the first Sunday School library was purchased. This year Sarah Parker, William Ely and wife, and Mrs. Mary C. Ely connected themselves with this church, and on the first of November, Asher Ely passed away, being the first member called to the Higher Church. In 1850 Melvin Gunsaullus and wife, Catharine A. Fisher (now Mrs. Willet), Asher and John Ely, and Wm. Rogers were admitted to the church, and on May 2d, Mrs. John Fisher passed away. The office of deacon was annulled on October 12, and John Fisher, Benjamin Persing and Melvin Gunsaullus were elected trustees to take their place. These were also constituted as a building committee to obtain funds and to oversee the erection of a church edifice. On February 22d, Melvin Gunsaullus was elected elder and this year the following persons joined: George McFarland and wife, John Harden and wife, Mary J. Rodgers, Sarah Lyons, Hannah Masters, Martha Futha and A.P. Criton and wife. The same year Mrs. Beerbower was dismissed for dancing and Mrs. Mary Futha, Martha Futha and Wm. Rodgers and wife were dismissed by letter.

In 1852 the present house of worship, which stands eight rods north of "Masters' Corners" was built on land given by Benjamin Persing and J.H. Fisher. The contract was taken by Wm. Ely for five hundred dollars. P.R. Fisher hewed the timber for this as well as a part of that used in the M.E. Church. The church was dedicated December 5th, 1852, the dedicatory sermon being preached by the Rev. John M. Crabbs.

The same year Wm. Masters and wife and Mrs. Sarah Benders were received, and George McFarland and wife were dismissed, and on the 26th of September, 1852, Miss Mary Jane Parker died. In 1853 Martin Beilhartz and wife and Mrs. Hannah Brink were received. In 1854 John Heron and wife, Sarah Heron, Joel Berdine and wife, Eveline and Susan Shangle and Margaret Brown were received as members, and Isabella Gunsaullus departed this life on October 21st. In 1855, Mrs. Margaret Hittle, Mary Lunger, Dr. Aaron Davis and wife, Mary Lewis and Miss Sarah Shangle were received, and Mrs. Joseph Ely died October 2. I have not the space to continue this detailed history and will now only notice the most important events. The first elder to die was Melvin Gunsaullus who died February 1, 1856. In September of the same year Armstrong Ervin and wife, Robert Badger and wife and Jacob Hendricks and wife were dismissed to organize the West Unity Church. On January 12, 1859, John Fisher and O.E. Shipman were elected ruling elders. There was no preaching during 1860 and no meeting of the sessions neither did the session meet during 1863. Nothing worthy of note occurred until August 17th, 1866, when S.C. Brown and wife, and Sarah (Shangle) Ely were dismissed to organize the Pioneer Church. The winter of 1866-67 was noted as the winter of the great revival, when between 75 and 80 made a profession of their faith, 59 of whom joined this church. November 11th, 1871, John Ovenhouse and wife and Jane Hughes were dismissed to organize the Madison (Kunkle) Church. February 1, 1863, Silas Leonard and H.S. Persing were elected ruling elders; and May 30, 1874, Anthony Snyder and wife, Lydia and Elizabeth Snyder, John Harden and wife, Hannah Brink and Susannah Farst were dismissed to organize the church at Fayette, being the fourth church that had grown out of the Mt. Salem Church. On April 7, 1876, Cyrus Axtell resigned the clerkship which office he had held for almost twenty-nine years, and H.S. Persing was elected to take his place, and on April 12th of this year John Fisher was called to the "church triumphant," being the second elder to depart this life. The church was very prosperous up till 1874 or '75, when the young folks became dissatisfied and a good many of them joined the M.E. Sunday School and this Sunday School commenced to decline, and with it the church, until at present there is no Sunday School and the average congregation is not over twelve or fifteen. The following table will give a condensed history of the church, and also shows the number that joined, that were dismissed and that died during each year of its organization. According to the record there should be ninety-eight members; but sixteen of these are marked as absentees and six others are marked as dropped, leaving seventy-eight members; but

there must have been a great many who have either moved away, been dismissed or have died and no record having been made of it, as the Synodical Report only credits this church with thirty members and even this number exceeds the actual number of communicants, and as I have said the average congregation is not over twelve or fifteen.

YEAR	PREACHERS	No. Joined	No. Died	No. Dis	Remarks
1847	Philip Condit	15	–	–	Organized September 4.
1848	John Crabbs	4	–	–	Deacons elected.
1849	" "	4	1	–	Sunday School organized.
1850	" "	6	1	–	Trustees elected.
1851	" "	10	–	5	
1852	" "	3	1	2	Church built.
1853	" "	3	–	–	
1854	" "	8	1	–	
1855	Luke Dorland	6	1	–	
1856	" "	17	2	–	M. Gunsaullus died.
1857	" "	–	–	9	To organize West Unity.
1858	" "	2	1	–	
1859	" "	19	–	–	Two elders elected.
1860	No preacher	–	1	–	No Session.
1861	J.P. Stockton*	–	4	2	*3 months.
1862	Samuel Hughes	4	–	2	
1863	" "	–	2	–	No Session.
1864	" "	1	–	2	
1865	J.P. Stockton	6	–	–	
1866	" "	–	–	3	To organize Pioneer.
1867	" "	62	–	7	Big Revival.
1868	" "	–	–	–	No Session.
1869	" "	2	2	–	
1870	" "	2	2	6	
1871	" "	–	–	5	To organize Madison.
1872	" "	12	2	4	
1873	" "	1	–	6	Two elders elected.
1874	" "	2	1	9	To organize Fayette.
1875	J.E. Vance	2	–	1	
1876	" "	–	1	1	John Fisher died.
1877	J.P. Stockton	–	3	–	
1878	J.P. Stockton	–	1	1	No Session.
1879	" "	3	–	–	
1880	" "	–	1	–	No Session.
1881	" "	2	2	–	
1882	" "	–	–	–	No Session.
1883	" "	–	1	–	No Session.
1884	" "	–	1	–	No Session.
1885	" "	–	1	–	No Session.

THE WEST UNITY
FRIENDS OR QUAKER CHURCH

All the information I could get concerning this church, is given in the following letters which I give here in full, although I think the dates in the first should have been 1845 and 1849 instead of 1855 and 1859.

9-15-1885

A.W. Fisher.

Friend - Thy letter received last night and I will answer it to the best of my ability.

I find from our record that the meeting was established at Battle Creek Monthly Meeting, held at Adrian, 5th month, 30th, 1855, and was called West Unity Indulged Meeting, and was under the care of a committee appointed by the monthly meeting. West Unity Preparative Meeting was established first mo, 26th, 1859. As it was then a branch of the monthly meeting they kept their own records, and I can answer none of thy questions. But will refer thee to Nathan Borton, Senior, who was one of the original members, and can give thee the information thee asks much better than any one else.

Thy Friend,
Joseph H. Smith
Canandiagua, Mich.

I did as directed and received the following from Mr. Borton, who for years has been the preacher, or speaker, for this church:

Alfred Fisher,

Respected Friend - I will answer some of thy questions.

I think in the year 1840 or 1841 we had an Indulged Meeting under the care of the Adrian Monthly Meeting, but the meeting house was not built until 1850. Wm. Ely, Sr., took the contract for $250. Benjamin, Bethuel, Nathan, Job and John Borton - we paid all the expenses. the Preparative Meeting was established the 11th of 5th month, 1859, as a branch of the Battle Creek Monthly Meeting. The first one who was buried in the graveyard, was Reuben, son of John Borton, who died the 14th of the 5th month, 1847.

Nathan Borton, Clerk.

Thus I have given a brief history of the four churches that at one time could have been seen by a person standing at the corners, neither of which was a half mile away. Three of these are still standing, and I do not believe that another place in the state can be found where so many churches are seen in a rural district, standing so close together.

THE CAMPELLITE OR DISCIPLE CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

Although a few rods beyond the limits fixed by me in writing up this history of Masters' Corners, so many of the members have lived within these limits that I have decided to give here the history of this church, as kindly furnished me by one of its leading members, D.J. Prickitt. He says:

"In December, 1860, L. Berry Smith preached a few discourses at the McLaughlin schoolhouse to small congregations, and in January, 1861, L.L. Carpenter spoke a few times to medium congregations. In the following March he again preached a number of discourses and baptized Chalkley Harlan in the brook at the corners, a few rods from his house. L.L. Carpenter continued to preach occasionally, during the summer, to full houses and in the latter part of December (1861) he held a meeting of some days duration without any accessions to the church. He was somewhat discouraged and said he would come no more unless sent for.

The last of January, 1862, Brother Carpenter preached again at the schoolhouse and Aunt Margaret McLaughlin told him if he would hold a protracted meeting at the schoolhouse, she would 'obey the gospel.' So he sent an appointment for February 10, 1862. He came, held the meeting, baptized twenty-one, and on the 20th day of the same month organized a congregation of twenty-four members, as follows:

Chalkley Harlan
Nancy Harlan
Wm. Harlan
John Morfoot
Mary Morfoot
David McCollum
Charity McCollum
Margaret McLaughlin
Milo McLaughlin
Elizabeth McLaughlin
Jasper Thomas
Byron Darby
Solomon Shetler
Everett Stonestreet
Ellis McLaughlin
Lorena Shoemaker
Orpha Shoemaker
Francisco Darby
Phebe Thomas
Emma Thomas
Martha Stonestreet
Noble W. Page
Mary McLaughlin
Sarah Shoemaker

They called "Uncle Jimmy" Riddle to take the oversight for the present and the church at Spring Hill released him for a year for that purpose. During the spring and summer of 1862 many others came into the church as named hereafter:

Asher Axtell	George Beaty
Sabina Axtell	Jane Beaty
Elizabeth McLaughlin	Martha Ayers
Mary A. Smith	Mary Wirek
Susan McGowan	Thos. McGowan
Polly Haynes	Hannah Allgire
Mary Wirick	Catharine Morrison
Harrison Hoops	Eve McLaughlin
Washington Wirick	Charity Gee

In 1863 the following were added:

Elizabeth McGowan	Martha S. Picket
James S. Rodgers	Martha Beaty
Barbara Rodgers	Daniel McLaughlin
Jane McGowan	Elizabeth McGowan
Sarah Shetler	Isabella Finch
Mary Hevalow	
1864	
Wesley Hoops	Lorado Eggleston
Mary Gleason	Rebecca Herlan
Mary Eyers	Eunice Axtell
1865	
Lewis Harlan	Jacob Smitley
Nancy Harlan	Sarah Smitley
Marian Strawn	Calvin Steward
Sarah Taylor	
1866	
Leonard O. Harlan	Angeline Freed
Daniel J. Prickitt	Henry J. Smith
1867	
Fred G. Myers	Catharine Hutchinson
Anna Myers	
1868	
Thos. P. Sutton	Charles Vogelsong
Martha J. Sutton	Mary A. Smith
Wm. B. Hager	Susan E. Lawrence

Since 1868 up to the present, seventy-eight have been added to the church, but owing to the various causes known to those acquainted with church life, there are but a few counted among the faithful. The loss of membership may be classed as follows:

Died	20
Moved away with letters from church	15
Moved away without letters from church	51
Joined other denominations without letter	1
Withdrawn from, by action of church	6
Withdrawn by request	8
Total loss	101

This leaves fifty-six who are nominally present. Of those who have moved away without 'church letter,' eight consider themselves as still amenable to this church. The present membership is scattered over a very large territory. Several who attend as often as circumstances will permit, say from one to six or eight times a year, live eleven miles from the meeting house.

The first elder was James S. Riddle, who served in 1862-63; J.W. Morfoot and J.S. Rodgers, 1863-64; J.W. Morfoot and Asher Axtell, 1864-65; J.S. Riddle and J.W. Morfoot, from 1865 to 1874, J.W. Morfoot and Charles Vogelsong during 1874-75; J.W. Morfoot, 1876; F.G. Myers, from 1877 to 1885. Chalkley Harlan and Thos. McGowan were the first deacons and served until they moved away, and D. McLaughlin and D.J. Prickitt were elected and have served ever since. The church has enjoyed the services of the following ministers: L.B. Smith, L.L. Carpenter and Adam Moore, 1860 to 1865; J.I. Harris, 1865-66; Thos. P. Sutton, 1867-69; R. Winbigler, Robert Sheppard, Z. Sheppard, James Hadsell, Randall Faurot, J. Vandervoort, O.J. Britton, J.O. Street, and others at times varying from a few days to two years, and as there were no records kept of these services, dates cannot be supplied by the writer. The polity of the church is purely congregational and the hiring of a preacher is a matter that concerns no one but the congregation and the preacher who may offer his services and should he get the price agreed upon there is rarely a need of any record. We can say with some degree of pride that no preacher ever failed to receive every cent due him - except perhaps in one instance where there exists a misunderstanding and the amount involved is only fifteen dollars.

In February, 1866, the church decided to build a meeting house, and to procure the means, started a subscription and appointed a committee to procure a lot on which to build. The committee consisted of John McLaughlin, John Shilling and Chalkley Harlan, who procured the lease of a lot from John Shilling. The church accepted the lot, which is located near the center of section 2, town 7 north, range 4 east. A building committee was appointed, consisting of John McLaughlin, John Shilling, Thomas McGowan, J.S. Riddle and Chalkley Harlan. Thos. McGowan took the contract for the carpenter work

on the house, and commenced the frame on the 8th of May.

The materials were furnished by subscription and whatever was lacking was purchased by the building committee. The foundation was laid June 10th, and the frame was raised on the 23rd. The house was not finished ready for dedication until about the 1st of July, 1867, although my diary says the debt at that time was $380 and it would require $60 to finish it. The total cost of the building was about $1,200. However on Lord's day July 7, 1867, the house was dedicated, L.L. Carpenter preaching the sermon, using the 84th Psalm as a text. George W. Money made the dedicatory prayer. Since then very few Lord's days have passed that has not seen a gathering, large or small, of the professed followers of Christ at this house dedicated to His service.

D.J. Prickitt

Thus I have endeavored to give a brief sketch of the churches near the corners that have done so much towards making this the moral, enlightened and refined community for which this neighborhood has ever been noted. These histories with the exception of that of the Methodist Church have all been drawn from the different church records and are correct, and that of the Methodist Church is as nearly correct as it was possible to make it. There may be some slight mistake in the order of the coming of the preachers of this church, but otherwise this history may be relied on with all confidence.

GRAVEYARDS AND CEMETERIES

The first person to die near the corners was John Ackerson, who was passing through this country in 1836 in search of land, and stopped at David Sevrence's to stay all night. It was very warm and he drank a large quantity of cold water from their spring which it is supposed, chilled him. In the night he took suddenly sick, and only lived three or four days. His relatives in the east were notified and his son came on, but he did not see fit to remove the body and it lies buried on the eastern part of the Sevrence farm. His grave was marked by a large cherry tree for some time, but now even that is gone.

The first graveyard in Mill Creek Township was located on the banks of Mill Creek near the south side of section 35, on what was then the Haines farm, afterwards owned by William Rhodes and now by William Acker. I am told that the house now stands on the site of this graveyard. I could not learn just when this graveyard was started. The first one that I can find any account of who were buried there was Mr. and Mrs. Berome, who I am told were buried the same day, sometime about 1840, although Mrs. Berome had died some two years previous and had been buried elsewhere. In later years the Town Cemetery was started and this graveyard was abandoned and all but a few were removed. Some say only two or three still remain there while others say that fifteen or twenty yet sleep in the old graveyard by the creek.

In a very early day there was a graveyard started on the south side of section 31, town 9 south, range 1 east, on the old Gorsuch farm. It was located about 15 rods north of the road, on the top of the hill just east of the old Kibbler milldam. Some fifteen or twenty persons were buried here, and some say that a number are still buried there although the land is now being farmed. I could learn nothing more definite than the above concerning this graveyard.

In 1843 a graveyard was laid out on land given by Asher Ely, Sr., which has ever since been known as the Asher Ely Graveyard. The first buried here was Asher Bird, son of Asher Bird, Sr., who died Oct. 15, 1843. This yard was partially abandoned, a great many having been moved to other resting places; but some twenty-six graves can yet be counted, and no doubt there are more amongst the under growth that has been left to grow there.

The Quaker Graveyard was started in 1847 on land given by Job Borton, and the first buried there was Reuben, son of John and Elizabeth Borton, who died May 14, 1847

The M.E. Graveyard was located on land given by Ezekiel Masters as early as 1849. Little Willie Masters, son of Ezekiel and Mary Masters, was the first to be laid to rest in this new graveyard in the woods. P.R. Fisher helped to dig his grave. He died Sept. 22, 1849, being only 2 years, 8 months and 1 day old. Thirty-six years only have passed since then and now by his once lonely grave there has been established the camping ground of a small army, "sleeping in their low green tents whose curtain

never outward swing."

The Presbyterian Graveyard was not started until 1855. It was located on land obtained of John Fisher. P.R. Fisher and Benjamin Persing hollowed out the first grave which was the last resting place of Albe Thompson who died June 19, 1855, at the age of 20 years and 10 days.

In 1881 an association was formed which purchased a lot from the northeast corner of Jacob Schenk's farm, and obtained control of the old M.E. Graveyard and formed the whole into what is now known as the Franklin Cemetery. The first one buried in the new part of the cemetery was an infant daughter of John and Ella Hollington, who died August 16, 1882, being only fourteen days old. Thus the first buried in the old portion and the first in the new part of this cemetery, both died on the same farm but not in the same house as some have supposed, as little Willie Masters died in the old log house of Mr. and Mrs. Masters, before the present dwelling was erected. Strange that the first buried in each of these five graveyards were young, and some very, very young. In these many different resting places sleep the "loved and lost" of nearly every family that has lived near the corners; and those who survive should see that these "cities of the dead" were rightly kept in order. To do this properly the four graveyards near the corners should all be placed in the hands of one corporated association with money enough in trust that the interest arising therefrom would form a sufficient perpetuity to make all necessary repairs, and keep everything in order and make and keep them as beautiful as possible.

CHAPTER X

SIXTY YEARS AND BEYOND

They have labored up life's summit,
And are passing down its grade;
In their midst now lie their neighbors,
Who have passed within Death's shade.

It is truly wonderful that a number of old people are living near Masters' Corners, Franklin Township, Fulton County, Ohio. Inscribe a circle, with a radius of only two miles, making the M.E. Church its center and we have the remarkable, the almost incredible, number of fifty-three persons who are over sixty years of age; and the sum of whose ages amount to three thousand six hundred sixty years. Hence we have fifty-three persons living in one neighborhood, and one that would be called thinly settled, whose ages average over sixty-nine years.

A great many of these are old pioneers, who settled in a wilderness to rear a home, and in doing so have hewn out for themselves a country. Their names, the time they came, and their respective ages are as follows:

NAMES	SETTLED	AGE
Benjamin Borton	1839	76
Mrs. Benjamin Borton	1863	74
John Sparks	1839	68
P.R. Fisher	1845	70
Mrs. P.R. Fisher	1845	67
Silas Leonard	1871	69
Mrs. Silas Leonard	1871	68
Mrs. Dougherty	1873	74
Benjamin Persing	1846	76
Mrs. Margaret Cox	1864	65
Frederick Crumrine	1854	76
Mrs. Frederick Crumrine	1854	63
William Ely	1839	60
Mrs. Joseph Ely	1860	63
Nathan Borton	1836	75
Mrs. Nathan Borton	1836	69
Mrs. Bushey	1851	61
J.R. Williams	1876	65
Michael Martzolf	1847	73
Mrs. Michael Martzolf	1847	73
John Jacoby	1844	63
Mrs. David Sevrence	1835	89
Mrs. Martin Beilhartz	1846	78
Alfred Sevrence	1835	62
Mrs. Thomas Taylor	1867	89
John Bender	1845	69
Mrs. John Bender	1845	65
Mrs. Samuel Shadle	1845	77
Joseph Wickersham	1869	74
Mrs. Joseph Wickersham	1869	67
Henry Brown	1884	65
George McFarland	1839	83
Mrs. George McFarland	1839	66
Samuel Moss	1853	75
Christopher Spade	1843	68
Mrs. Christopher Spade	1843	62
Alfred Crum	1852	60
Mrs. Alfred Crum	1852	60
George Pifer	1843	63
Mrs. George Pifer	1843	63

(list continued)

John Clifton	1839	67
Mrs. John Clifton	1839	73
Mrs. Lewis Newcomer	1835	63
George Ely	1835	74
Mrs. George Ely	1835	71
Asher Ely	1839	63
Morris Gleason	1848	67
John Shaffer	1853	62
John Borton	1836	65
Mrs. John Borton	1839	69
Job Borton	1836	66
Mrs. Job Borton	1839	70
Mrs. Daniel Axtell	1839	68

Job Borton and his wife moved away so recently that I gave them a place in the list.

Those who have died within the same circumference, full of years is equally remarkable.

We find forty-eight who have been laid to rest, forty-six of whom have an average age of seventy-five years, and whose combined ages amount to three thousand four hundred thirty-nine years. Some of the dates reaching back one hundred thirty-nine years since first this throng set forth to the silent land.

Aay-e-nox-ie 10,11
Acker, Mrs. George
Acker, William 44
Ackerman, John 44
Adams, Patience 38
Adams, Robert 38
Adrian 1,2,14,42
Aetna Ridge 9
Alderman, Simeon H. 34,35
Allen County 17
Allgire, Hannah 43
Alvord 36
Alvord, Mrs. Hiram 18
Alvordton 36
Am-eck-ko-se 8
Amsbaugh 36
Amsbaugh District 30,31
Amsbaugh, Henry 30
Amsbaugh, Michael 36
Amsterdam 17,18
Andre, Maj 12
Angola 28
Angola Road 2,10,18,19,22,27
An-pen-haw-bee 8
Appleseed, Johnny 17
Arch, Johny 24
Arch, Johnny 21
Archbold 28
Arrowsmith 18
Asher Ely District 31
Asher Ely Graveyard 44
Asher Ely School 10,30,32,36
Asheries 27
Ash-ku-wee 8
Atch-wee-muck-quee 8
Auglaize River 7,8,10,34
Auglaize Township 13
Austin, James B. 34,35
Aw-be-to-nee 8
Axtell, Asher 43
Axtell, Cyrus 8,39,40
Axtell, Daniel 38
Axtell, Mrs. Daniel 46
Axtell, Eunice 39,43
Axtell, Phebe 38
Axtell, Sabina 43
Ayers, Abner 38
Ayers, Claracy 38
Ayers, Joseph 35
Ayers, Judge 30
Ayers, Martha 43
Ayers Run 19
Ayers School 29,31,35
Ayres, Wm. 19
Aysh-cam 8
Badger, Robert 40
Baines, H.K. 34,35
Baker, Elisha A. 20
Baker, James 20
Baptist Church 28,37
Barkdull, Thomas N. 35,36
Barnell, A.B. 7
Barnes, Dorsey 19
Barrett, Mrs. Cyrus 18
Bates, Belinda 18
Bates District 31,32
Bates, Elizabeth 18
Bates, Harriet 18,19
Bates, James 18,21
Bates, Joe 3
Bates, Joseph 13,18,19,20,21 29-31
Bates, Mary 18
Bates Run 10,11,19
Bates School 31,36
Bates, Thomas 18
Bates, Truman 18,19,21
Battle Creek 42
Baum, G.H. 21
Bawbeece 9,11,12
Bawbeece Lake 10
Bean Creek 7,9,16,17,18,19,21 22,27,29
Bear, Daniel 21
Beaty, George 43
Beaty, Jane 43
Beaty, Martha 43
Beaver Creek 17,34
Beaver Township 13
Beerbower, Elizabeth 39
Beerbower, Mrs. 40
Beilhartz, Martin 21,26,40
Beilhartz, Mrs. Martin 45
Belt, Leroy A. 35,37
Bender, Mr. 29
Bender, Jacob 19
Bender, John 20,23,45
Bender, Mrs. John 45
Bender, Sarah 40
Benson, Silas 25,28
Berdine, Joel 40
Berome 44
Berome, George 20,22
Berome Mill 22
Beshtle, Ezra 22
Bird, Mrs. 22
Bird, Asher 19,22,38,44
Bird, Catharine 38
Bird's Mill 22
Bird's School 38
Bixbee, D.A. 1
Blanc P.O. 28
Black Hawk 9
Blacksmith Shops 24
Black Swamp 7,19
Blue Jacket 6
Boggs, Wm. 34,35
Boothman, Mrs. L.M.
Borton, Benjamin 10,19,21,27 29,42,45
Borton, Mrs. Benjamin 45
Borton, Bethuel 20,21,31,42
Borton, Charlie 26
Borton, Elizbeth 44
Borton, Isaac 21
Borton, Job 10,19,20,23,42,44 46
Borton, Mrs. Job 46
Borton, John 19,20,22,23,26 27,29,32,42,44,46
Borton, Mrs. John 46
Borton, Joseph 20
Borton, Mrs. Joseph 19
Borton, Nathan 10,19,20,21,23 26,42,45
Borton, Mrs. Nathan 45
Borton, Obediah 21,23,26,27
Borton, Reuben 42,44
Borton, Samuel 20,37
Borton, William 24,27,28
Boughman, John A. 33
Bradie, Captain 14
Brady Township 1-2,3,12,14-16 19,21-24,26,27,29,31 35,39
Brake, T.W. 36
Breckenridge, George W. 35,37
Brick Kiln 29
Briggs, Rev. 39
Brink, Hannah 40
Britton, O.J. 43
Brock, Wesley 33-35
Brown 18
Brown, B.L. 36
Brown, Gen. 14
Brown, Henry 45
Brown, Levi 32
Brown, Margaret 40
Brown, Simeon C. 28
Brown, S.C. 40
Brown, W.A. 36
Brunbridge, Jane 29

Brunersburg 17,18,21
Bryan 2,10,17,30,31,34
Bryan Circuit 35
Bulkely, Chancy 20
Burgess, John 34,35
Bushey, Mrs. 24,45
Butler, John 28
Butt, Andrew 36
Byrd, Charles W. 1

California 18
Campellite Church 29,42
Canada 9,18
Cane Mills 23
Carmichael, Belinda 40
Carpenter, L.L. 42-44
Carr, David 21
Carr, Jesse 36
Carriage Shops 25
Case, William 32
Cass, Lewis 8
Cease, David 25
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Chaffee, Stephen 20
Chambers 14
Chapman, Henry 34,35
Chatfield 9,17,18,19,22,27
Chatfield's Mill 22
Che-ben-see 8
Chee-gwa-mack-gw-go 8
Chenotin 6
Chesterfield Township 15,16,19
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Chicago 9
Chillicothe 32
Chippewas 5,8
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Chubb, R.H. 34,35
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Cider Mills 23
Cincinatti 2,18
Clapper, Phillip 20
Clark, E.B. 20
Clark, George 20
Clay District 32
Clay, Henry 32
Clemins, Chesterfield 20
Clemins, Robert 20
Clifton, John 10,20,23-26,29
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Clifton, Mrs. John 46
Clifton, John R. 32
Clifton, Samuel 20,24
Clifton, William 20,24
Clinton Church 37,38
Coffin, Clement 20
Coffin, Freeman 20,30
Cogle 25
Cogle, Jonathan 24
Cogswell, Mr. 19
Cogswell's Corners 19
Coleman 27
Coleman, Mr. 20
Coleman, Abijah 20
Coleman, Alfred 38
Coleman, Austin 34-36
Coleman, Chester 34,35
Coleman, Elizabeth 38
Coleman Mill 22
Coleman, Walter 20,22
Colgan, Daniel 13
Colgan, J.R. 36
Collins, W.H. 34,35
Conat, Horatio 14
Conaway, Jane 38
Conaway, Joshua 3,21,23,26,38
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Condit, Rev. Philip 39,41
Connecticut 1
Cooley, John W. 34
Coon, Mr. 18
Cooper, Dr. Edward 28
Costin, Zarah 33
Cottrell, Asa 20,30
Cottrell, Erastus 30,30
Cottrell, Gorham 20,30
Cottrell, Joseph 20
Cottrell, Minerva 30
Cottrell, S. 30
Cottrell, Sardis 20
Council Bluffs 12
Cox, Jacob 21,25
Cox, John 21
Cox, Mrs. Margaret 45
Crabbs, Rev. John M. 39,40,41
Crandall, Samantha 29
Crawford, Levi 20
Criton, A.P 40
Crum, Alfred 45
Crum, Mrs. Alfred 45
Crum, Henry 32
Crum, H.W. 32
Crum, Lauren V. 32
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Crumrine, Frederick 8,31,37,45
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Darby, Francisco 42
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Davis, Lorenzo 38
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De St. Lusson, Lamont 1
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Ely, O.S. 18,20,21,25,32,37
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Ely, R.G. 20,24,25,29,40
Ely, Sarah 40
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Ferris, John L. 35
Fielders, John 13
Finch, Isabella 43
Finley, James W. 33
Finley, J.B. 32
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Fisher, A.W. 42
Fisher, Benton 31
Fisher, Catharine A. 40
Fisher, J.H. 37,40
Fisher, John 20,21,31,40,41,45
Fisher, Kate 31
Fisher, Mary 39,40
Fisher, Mary Jane 40
Fisher, Philip R. 39
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Kin-kp-i-no 6
Kis-a-pok 6
Knapp, John 38
Knapp, Samuel 37
Knipe, Fred A. 17
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Luther, Sarah 13
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